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BIBLE MONITOR

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JANUARY 1, 1990

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MEDITATION

I want to be alone,
With humble adoration,
To listen to God speaking
With solemn meditation.

I listen very closely
To learn of His great will,
Then I put to practice
What lingers with me still.

We know that God is talking
In many loving ways,
Perhaps in answer to a prayer
Or grateful words of praise.

He tells me of His love
He had for you and me,
That He sent His only Son
To die to set me free.

He tells of the Holy Spirit
He sent to guide me right.
I'll sing praises to my Master,
The giver of my life.

Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
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WHAT WILL THE NEW YEAR BRING?

At this season there is alot of speculation concerning events during the upcoming year. People always want to know what the future holds so they listen to various experts as they give their predictions of the new year's happenings. Sometimes some are able to foretell some events but many times they fail in their quest of the future's secrets.

People have grown tired of the present year and its problems so they look to the new year as an avenue of escape. The new year may bring better times than the present year has.

There are wars and rumors of war. There continue to be significant earthquakes spread over many areas of the world. Other physical disasters are common news items. Sickness and accidents are ever present. Crime and addiction are very much a part of the modern world. Political uprisings and terrorism are among the most pressing worries of this world. These are broad categories of troubles and conditions that affect large segments of the population.

Besides these worldwide situations, there are individual situations for each to face. Sickness, accident, grief, financial problems, employment problems, political problems as well as family situations all add up to individual headaches. Some have even deeper and more dire circumstances to face in their lives. As we stand at the brink of another year we do not know how it will affect us and our families and our associates.

The political and social situation that exists in the world affects us all. As individuals we have little or no influence over these situations. The national and international leaders direct as best as

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they can. Even they often seem to be driven from one crisis to another, not being able to control the events.

While the political, economic and social scene ebbs and flows, we must always be concerned with the moral and religious climate that surrounds us. Our hopes for the new year would include revival. We also hope to see those, who have chosen to follow Jesus, to be renewed in their commitment to their Lord. We would like to see Christians choosing to live as Christians. We are appalled today at the various lifestyles and activities that are accepted as Christian. Today's popular Christianity has accommodated itself to the world to the extent that often there is no line of separation remaining.

Just as the individual looks at the political, economic and social situations that surround and feels powerless to do anything about them, so the Christian views the prevailing Spiritual darkness and feels there is little he can do. Many have given up, feeling they cannot do anything significant, so they do nothing. By doing nothing they only add to the problem. Political and economic plans will not cure the world's Spiritual problems. Actually many of today's social problems are the result of past Spiritual failures. When God's laws are broken with impunity there will be results in the downfall of social institutions.

With so much darkness around, what is the value of one person's battle against it? Every Spiritual battle is essentially an individual one. For as each Christian strives to do what is right, he is lighting his little light in the midst of that darkness. Each Christian deed is one more reproof against Satan's darkness. The darkened world needs to see what Biblical Christianity is. It needs to see an established standard of conduct and life-style that is Biblically based. The world will only respect the Church when there can be seen a standard that is higher than its own.

The Church can never rear a bright Spiritual standard if her members are not individually upholding that standard in their lives. So the individual effort of each one is needed to make the light as bright as possible. As individuals we may not have much influence on the outcome of broad political, social or economic matters but as individuals we do have a power to influence the brightness of the light that is shed abroad by the Church.

Each member who fails to live up to his responsibility distracts from the witness of the Church. The world already lies in a great darkness and each flickering of the Church's light adds to that darkness.

As the new year begins we do not know what it holds for us individually, nationally or as a Church. We can only use the time

given us as best we can to make the most possible light in the dark world. Our individual lives are important, for the light we each shed abroad can influence others to escape the darkness or encourage them to let their lights shine brighter.

As you step into the new year will you do your part in shedding Spiritual light in a dark and dying world? Happy candle lighting!

TIMES CHANGE

Times change, but God does not. People's values change, but God's do not. Sometimes it appears that God's people are behind the times both in their thinking and living because they don't "go with the flow", but really, they are not. Keeping up with the times can be worthwhile, but it does not save our souls; Jesus does. Keeping up with the times may simply mean our thinking changes day by day just as circumstances do. Yet God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Regardless of the generation we are born in, people are still the same, sin is still sin, and God is still in control. See Revelation 13:1. His standards stay the same year by year, but man's do not. If God changed everytime the social etiquette of our world changed, we would never have anything to hold on to. There would be nothing stable to guide our lives by, no assurance that the salvation we know about and believe in today would be there for us tomorrow.

We can keep up with the times and be very "with it", yet totally miss out with God. Which is more important? Which gives us more purpose in life? Keeping up with the times, or following God's standards? If we choose only to keep up with the times, we will have alot of company, and also alot of emptiness. If we choose to rely on God's unchanging standards, we may be in a minority, but our hearts will be at peace.

People attend various social gatherings with the idea in mind to have a good time. They are seeking fun and relaxation, but may only find more turmoil and emptiness. Why? Because much of the small talk and the sharing is so shallow and pointless. People say alot of meaningless words in an effort to impress other people who don't really care anyhow. They are keeping up with the times, while leaving behind the things which really matter.

It is fine to keep up with the times as far as being aware of world conditions, but that doesn't mean we should pattern our lives after the world's standards. If our hearts are caught up with the world's changing standards, we will live by those. But if Christ is in our hearts, we will pattern our lives after His unchanging standards. We will keep up with Him, rather than just keeping up with the times. Whatever our hearts are set on is what will comes out in our lives. See Matthew 12:35.

Jesus said, "And they call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46. It is important to decide first and foremost who will be on the throne in our lives. Will it be Jesus in control, whose pattern of life we follow, or, will we control our own lives and follow whatever standards suit our fancy? Jesus' standards bring us life and peace, and they do not change. Our own choice of standards won't bring life or peace, and they are always subject to change.

"One is your Master, even Christ." Matt. 23:8. Christ's position as our Savior and Lord never changes. If we belong to Him, then He is our Master, and we should give the control of our lives to Him. We can't give it to Him one day and then take it back the next. Jesus asks us to be obedient every day, not just part of the time. This rule doesn't change, because Jesus doesn't. What if Jesus rewarded part-time obedience with just being a part-time Savior? On some days He'd forgive us and on others He wouldn't. Not good sense, you say? It makes as much sense as part-time obedience.

The standards which people have for what is right and wrong cannot be relied on because they are always changing. The circumstances dictate what the standards will be. With God, the standards are set first and He judges the circumstances by His standards. If this were not true, we could not rely on God, and His Word. His promises to us would be just meaningless words.

As you face the new year, do it with confidence that even though the world changes, God doesn't. He loves you just as He said. His Son, Jesus, died for you, just as He said. He will take care of you always, just as He said. The world changes, times change, but God is always the same, just as He said.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HOT in 1990

Look around you. Does anything seem a little unusual? Do you see stability in the world, in the family, in individual lives? Dear friends, JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR HIS CHURCH SOON. One of these days in the future, Jesus is going to vomit out the lukewarm Christians and they are not going to have the opportunity for an eternal existence with Him.

We are living in the Laodicean church age. Laodicea means "the rights of the people." It is a time when people think only of their own rights and the rights of Christ and His pure church are not considered.

In Revelation 3 we don't find the atheist or outrageous sinner displeasing God. We find that the lukewarm, indifferent and

neglectful Christian is the one that is condemned. This is the person who fights against the churches goals and impedes the progress of the church. This is the complacent church member. We have become lukewarm at a cost of blighting the church of its full effectiveness. We haven't become drunk, immoral or profane... we have become lukewarm.

The 1980's was a time that hardened us to accept many things that have been stable and wrong in the past. We are not shocked anymore by the horrible tragedies of our age. Even Adam hid after he had sinned, but today we don't seem to care who knows about our sin. Satan is in charge of so many people and churches today that it behooves us to recognize his power and stay close to Christ. Young people and adults alike must work to stay away from his clutches. We must put the Lord first in all things.

We have become lukewarm in accepting about anyone who calls himself a "Christian" as being a part of the Body of Christ.

We have become lukewarm about our heritage of integrity. When we make a debt, we are lukewarm about paying it. This might not be total dishonesty but it certainly is indifference and is Biblically condemned. The outside world is evaluating us daily on our care of financial matters and we can't afford to "crucify the Lord afresh" by dragging His name through the mud of the legal system. Our word must be as good as our bond. Is yours? Can the world depend upon what you say? Is your integrity unquestionable?

We have become lukewarm in our obedience to the Lord. Beloved, Jesus is the Lord of our lives and we must regulate our lives by His commandments. Are you aligned with the church? Are you faithful? Do you put it above all of the other world's institutions? Do you work hard to be a viable and effective member or do you just prefer to let someone else do the work and you sit on the sideline and enjoy the benefits?

1990 is going to require a church full of front line Christians. We need to be about our Father's business. We need to be seeking the kingdom of God and checking our lives by His Word.

We are lukewarm in our prayer lives. We believe in prayer but how much of it do we do? Have you ever calculated the total amount of time you spend in prayer talking to God. A survey like that might show some frightening results but you must analyze whether you are spending enough time talking to the Lord. Prayer is the only hope of our age. It is the greatest source of power and also the greatest source of peace for our lives.

Lukewarmness in service must stop. The church is crying out for faithful and dedicated workers. Won't you become HOT for the work of the Lord? Won't you be counted among those who will go all the way to completion in the Christian life?

Finally, I fear we have been far too reserved in sharing the Good News with others in the past. Start out 1990 with a resolution to share the plan of salvation with more people and become vocal for Christ's cause. There is a story of a man who was deaf and mute and, of course, he had no way to verbalize Christ to others. He worked in a city seven miles from his home and for many years rode the same streetcar to work. He always smiled at the conductor when entering the streetcar and put his fare in the box. Then he would sit on the front seat, open his Bible, and read it until he reached his place of work in the city. One morning, after seven years, the conductor handed him an envelope when he boarded. Inside was penned, "Sir, I am not a Christian. But for seven years I have watched you and I know that you have something that I need more than anything else in the world. Please turn this letter over on the back and tell me when you can meet me. You name the place and bring an interpreter with you to tell me how I can be saved." The arrangements were made and the conductor became a Christian. This "disabled" person won a man to the Lord with his life. How about you? You can talk, can see and hear. Who have you won for the Lord? Were you HOT enough in His service in 1989 to be a soul winner? Don't let 1990 pass without sharing the plan of salvation with someone. You need only to be faithful to do so. Let's let our 1980's lukewarmness be replaced with a fire of commitment and faithfulness that God might be glorified by our work and not be ashamed of it.

Brother Len Wertz

A TRUE HAPPENING

What you are about to read is true. The names have been omitted except for one to protect the privacy of the family. Because there are so many, many abortions in America we felt this story should be shared.

This autumn a young couple, who are Navajos, came to our door in the evening in their pick-up. The young lady's aunt came to the door and handed us the following note:

"To Brother David,

My mom and cousin, ----, are going for an important thing. ---- was going to have a baby but due to some problems within the body, she had a surgery and the embryo was removed. ---- and ----wants you to perform a funeral service for the embryo. My mom doesn't really know how it's done — but maybe you do. Thank you for your concerns and considerations.

-----"

This couple has two children. They had waited six years for another baby. She was not well. The doctors thought it was a tubal pregnancy and operated. It was hard for ---- to say "yes" to the surgery. They found the baby was growing near the bladder. Our report is only from the family: we have not talked with the doctors.

She had not known she was pregnant so it was early in the pregnancy. The embryo was put in a plastic cup with a lid on it and the couple got it. When they arrived at the mission they had the cup in a thermos with ice in it. They had been shopping and bought things for a burial. The cousin had had a dream that it was a girl so they named it Jessica Faith.

David went to one of our buildings where there is a work-table and he fixed the embryo for them. They had a small pink suitcase. On the outside it said, "Going to Grandma's." In the bottom of the suitcase David placed a receiving blanket. He put the embryo in a zip-lock bag in it and folded the blanket in four ways. On top of this went another blanket, a lacy, pink dress, satin slippers, socks, a baby bottle, two toys and a Gerber undershirt.

Plans were made for the funeral at the Anthill Church for the next afternoon at 2:00 which was on a Sunday. During services here at the mission the next morning the young mother's aunt called me out and wanted to know if we could make a box for the suitcase so the dirt could not crush it during burial.

After church services, Paul David made a small box. Following dinner, David and I put the box in the back of the mission pick-up and we went to Anthill for the services. Anthill is one of our outreach areas.

Twenty-one family and friends gathered for the funeral in the little Anthill Church. The mother requested the congregation sing, "Lord, I'm Coming Home." Bro. David's message centered around John 14, Psalm 23 and Matthew 19:14. He brought in that Jesus loves the little children and during the service the congregation sang, "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

The family and friends were able to look at the arrangement before the lid was nailed on. We drove a short distance to the family plot for burial. Three uncles lowered the box with straps and Bro. David had the committal service and the grave was covered. A cross with pink flowers was put on the grave and different ones stuck silk flowers in the loose dirt.

We were touched with the concern and respect and love that this couple and their family gave to this "baby." It is so vastly different from the feelings and lack of love shown in our nation by those having abortions.

Sister Mildred Skiles

PUBLISHING THE GOSPEL

"And the Gospel must first be published among all nations."
(Mark 13:10).

The purpose of this article is to highlight the impact that publishing the Gospel has had on Church and World history.

One of the first recorded examples of writing I can think of in connection with true religion is when God wrote the Ten Commandments on tables of stone with His finger. So you can see that publishing was considered to be of importance a long, long time ago! In fact there were two editions, or two printings, of the Ten Commandments. Remember when Moses was coming down from the mountain with the first printing of the Ten Commandments, and he saw the Children of Israel worshipping the golden calf which Aaron had made? Moses was so incensed at the people's wickedness that he threw the stone tablets down and they broke into pieces. So he had to go back up on the mountain and the finger of God inscribed the second printing of the Ten Commandments.

There were earlier writings than the Ten Commandments. The Egyptians had devised a method of communication by drawing little pictures which meant certain things. This type of writing was called Hieroglyphic Script. The discovery of the "Rosetta Stone", which had one message written in three different languages, was an important key in helping to unlock the mysteries of early Egyptian writing. The civilization of Egypt had been around a long time by the time Moses came on the scene. However, I used the example of the writing of the Ten Commandments as the first writing done in connection with publishing the Gospel.

Moses wrote the Books of the Law, which we today know as the first five books of the Bible. He also wrote at least one of the Psalms (See Psalm 90).

The Books of Poetry were written and preserved as well as the Major and Minor Prophets. After the time of Christ, four men saw the need of preserving the account of the life of Christ while here on earth, so we have the four Gospels.

Paul, and several others, saw the need for writing letters to various churches. Some of these epistles were preserved and published. A good portion of the writings of Paul were written while he was in prison. I wonder if Paul would have the time to write so much had he not been in prison.

The one thousand years, from 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D. are known in world history as the "Dark Ages." That doesn't mean that the sun hid behind Jupiter, and there was complete darkness for one thousand years. They had days and nights then, just as we do now.

But the world's eyes were darkened to spiritual truth. The church of that day had the Bible, but they kept the truths of the Gospel hidden from the masses. There were language barriers. The Bibles that were available were very precious, because the only method of reproducing books was by handwriting. So if a particular church did have a copy of the Holy Scriptures, it would be chained to the pulpit so no one could steal it. The only access the common people had to the truths of the Bible was through the sermons of the priests. But unfortunately, the priests did not preach the truth. They preached the decrees and dogmas of the church. So, basically, the average person had no way to gain access to the Scriptures for a period of one thousand years. Those truly were the "Dark Ages" in a spiritual sense.

In the 1300's a man by the name of John Wycliffe felt a calling to remove the language barrier. He made the first great effort to place the entire Bible in the hands of the common people in their own language. In this case, it was the English language. This effort by Wycliffe was very much looked down upon, both by world rulers and the church leaders of that day. While Wycliffe died of natural causes, his body was later dug up and burned. They threw his ashes into the Swift River. But the followers of Wycliffe took up the work of making the Bible available to the English people.

In the mid-1400's, Johannes Gutenberg, who lived in Germany, invented moveable type. This invention greatly reduced the time it took to publish books and other items. The first book he printed is today known as "The Gutenberg Bible", which he printed in 1456. (This was thirty-six years before Columbus discovered America.) This development greatly helped to remove the barrier of having only a limited number of copies of the Bible available.

In the early 1500's, a young priest by the name of Martin Luther became very concerned about his own right standing with God. After years of intense searching, he finally came to the conclusion that man becomes justified in the sight of God by faith (See Romans 1:17 and 5:1); not by keeping a whole list of legalistic, unscriptural church decrees and dogmas. Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg, thus lighting the fires of the Reformation. (By the way, nailing papers with ideas written on them to church doors was an acceptable way of publicizing one's thoughts in those days.) Luther made a German translation of the Bible, so that the German-speaking people could also have access to the Holy Scriptures and the truths contained therein.

A few years later in England, William Tyndale first printed the English New Testament in 1525. For that act, he lost his life in October, 1536. The King of England condemned Tyndale's Bible

with these words:

“And that it shall now be more convenient that the same people have the holy scriptures expounded to them, by preachers in their sermons, according as it hath been of old time accustomed before this time.”

You should know that the preachers of the day were false prophets!

Notice the events that are instrumental in the “beginning of the end” of the Dark Ages — the end of the dominating rule of the Catholic Church. Think about heroes like Wycliffe, Gutenberg, Luther and Tyndale. Can you catch a glimpse of how publishing affected world events? When people could read the Bible for themselves, in their own language, they were able to throw off the shackles of a false religious system! When enough copies of the Bible were made available so that the general public had access to it's truths, the fear and superstition brought on by false prophets began to loosen their grip. The world was then able to move out of the “Dark Ages!”

Brother Robert Lehigh

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1930

THE TARES AMONG THE WHEAT

Matthew 13:24-30

Reuben Shroyer

The lesson shows or pictures before our minds two sowers, two growing crops and two yielded harvests.

Two sowers, “The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept an enemy came and sowed tares.” Christ's explanation of this is: He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world. Reader, note the statement the field is the world, not the church as some teach. The good seed are the children of the Kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil. First sower, the Son of Man. He is the owner of the field. “Didst not thou sow good seed in thy field?” He sowed the field with good seed, the wheat. He made man pure and upright. He created him in His own likeness.

He planted in him holy principles, good desires a divine nature. Satan, the second sower. He sowed tares. Christ says, the enemy that sowed them is the devil. There is an enemy then, and we know who he is, the devil. He sowed the tares, the evil seed. By this we understand the introduction of evil into the hearts of men. God is not the author of evil. “An enemy” says Christ, “hath done this.”

The wheat only have I sown. While men slept the enemy sowed tares. It is only as men sleep now that the agent of evil can succeed. In proportion to the deadness of human faculties, the drowsiness of the human soul, the non-alertness of human society can evil get the chance to spread. On earth we have both the tares and the wheat; everywhere in the world may be seen the vicious and the good, the vile and the holy, the enemies and loyal servants of God. The mixture everywhere prevails. God allows it, for why, is not for us to determine, but He will overrule it to His glory.

Two yielded harvests. The proprietor said "let the two harvests grow together" for a time. He would not trust his servants to make a separation. "Nay, lest while ye gather up the tares ye root up also the wheat with them." For men to discriminate between good and bad is not always an easy matter. Don't forget, dear reader, the field is the world. We have no authority to destroy the bad. God must have His own purposes in allowing the wicked to live. He thus exhibits His long suffering, gives men time for repentance. But there is a maturity, a harvest time for good and for evil. The reapers are the angels, beings free from liability to make a mistake. There will be absolutely no mistake made, no erring of discrimination. (See Matt. 15:31; II Thess. 1:7; Rev. 14:15). The treatment of the evil, bind them in bundles to burn them, in bundles implies that the wicked belong together. Even now it is said birds of the feather flock together. They have grouped themselves in bundles, each will go to his own place. The treatment of the righteous: "But gather the wheat into my barn." "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:43.) We shall be without spot or wrinkle. His servants shall serve Him. They shall shine forever and ever. Oh, what a glorious prospect that!

PUT YOUR TRUST IN JESUS

Jesus is the way, the truth, the life. Many times the pathway of life seems dim. If you believe in Christ, you know that He is a lamp unto your feet, a light unto your pathway. He has promised life to all who are willing to ask.

Dear ones, let us put our faith in Jesus always, holding fast to His truths, because worldly things will pass away, but His Word will last forever. When we put our trust in Him we have new life, for He is the truth, He is the bread of life, and the only One who can give us a Home in Heaven. He will fill our lives with love divine.

All that we are or ever hope to be will be because of the great love He has for us. He is the Potter and we are the clay shaped and molded each day to be a vessel of love and filled by God above.

Life is not always what we plan. Sometimes storms and clouds, sickness and sorrow come and times become hard. We sometimes would like to know why but we cannot understand. We must let the Heavenly Father, whom we trust know our every need. As these hard times come, let us ask Christ to help us. "Not my will but thine be done."

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

War Not Christianity

J. H. Moore

Jesus one time made a declaration while facing Pilate at the judgement hall, that ought to settle the question of the relation of Christianity to war. He said: "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36). Just a few hours before, when he was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter drew his sword to defend his Master. But Jesus said unto him: "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." (Matt. 26:52).

Jesus, the Head and Founder of Christianity, is called "the Prince of Peace." His is a kingdom of peace, and all his subjects are the children of peace. The weapons of their warfare are not carnal. In their work of conquest they employ the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Their Master instructed Peter to return his sword to its place, thus forbidding him the use of a carnal weapon. Not only so, but he gave his disciples to understand that those who use the sword, should with this weapon perish together.

His positive statement to Pilate that, if his kingdom were of this world, then would his servants fight for him, shows that he never intended that his humble followers should take part in carnal strife. Instead of killing their enemies, the subjects of his kingdom were instructed to love them. They were told to render good for evil, and to pray for those who would spitefully use them (Luke 6:27-28). The section of the old law, which says: "Thou shalt not kill," has been brought over and made a part of the principles governing the church of Christ. Furthermore, this law has been so expanded as to forbid even the hating of others. Instead of killing those who are enemies, and destroying them, the saints were encouraged to interest themselves in their welfare.

The world advances and defends her interests with instruments of warfare. The church of Christ, not being of the world, but

moving on a higher plane, advances and supports the interests of the Master's kingdom by moral suasion. Instead of destroying the lives of these opposing her, she purposes to teach and help regenerate and save them. The mission of God's children in the world is to do them good, and by means of education, moral suasion, culture and religion have them reach the plane of living where all differences may be adjusted by peaceable methods.

The whole tenor and spirit of the New Testament is against war, or even the preparation for war. From the day of the apostles to the present hour, the cry of the most consecrated and the most devout followers of the Prince of Peace has been against war. On account of their nonresistant principles they have been imprisoned, persecuted and made to endure the most cruel tortures known to human devices. Thousands of them have met death at the hands of their heartless persecutors. Still the cry for this era of peace, when the swords shall be converted into plowshares, and the spears into pruning hooks, has gone on, and will continue to go on until wars shall be abolished.

Wars, for ages, have been drenching the earth with blood. The best and noblest of all races have been literally butchered on the battlefield. Millions of widows have been made, and still more millions of orphans have been turned out into the cold world to suffer, because of the horrors of war. A great general, after viewing the clashes of contending armies, once said: "War is hell." Considering the evils resulting from war, the loss of lives and property, the devastation of the fairest lands of earth, the sorrow and the heartaches, the statement is none too harsh.

War is not Christianity. It is the reverse of all for which the religion of the Prince of Peace stands. It is contrary to the whole tenor of the Sermon on the Mount. Besides, war is inhuman, and indicates a lower instead of higher plane of existence. Christianity should move the nations up to a higher plane, and when that point is once reached, the nations of earth are going to find peaceable methods for adjusting their differences. It is for this era of peace that all devout followers of the Master should contend. They should turn their influence against all wars, against the preparation for war, and demand that strife between nations cease.



When things in this old world go wrong, be calm and strong, for trouble does not last long.

NEWS ITEMS

CORRECTION

In the November 1, 1989 issue in the article The Solemnity of the Marriage Vow in paragraph 5 on page 4 a serious error was made. The quotation from II John 9-11 should read: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God, He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, (of Christ) receive him not into your house (Church) neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is PARTAKER OF HIS EVIL DEEDS."

The Editor wishes to apologize to the author for this mistake and hopes no one will be misled by this oversight.

STANDING INFORMATION

Any additions, subtractions or corrections that need to be made in the standing information in the February 1st issue should be forwarded to the Editor as soon as possible so that issue can be as complete and accurate as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of you who sent us cards for our 25th Anniversary. We enjoyed them so much and do appreciate your prayers and the love shown unto us. May God bless each one of you.

In Christian love,
Sister Margaret and Brother Harliss Birt



During a voyage to India, a man sat one dark evening in his cabin, feeling thoroughly unwell. Suddenly the cry of "Man overboard!" made him spring to his feet. He heard a trampling overhead, but resolved not to go on deck, lest he should interfere with the crew in their efforts to save the man. "What can I do?" he asked himself, and instantly unhooking his lamp, he held it near the top of the cabin and close to the bull's-eye window, that its light might shine on the sea. In half a minute's time, he heard the joyful cry, "It's all right; he's safe!" The next day, he was told that his little lamp was the sole means of saving the man's life; it was only by the timely light which shone upon him that the rope could be thrown so as to reach him."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

JANUARY 15, 1990

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JANUARY 15, 1990

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Thy footsteps, Lord, with joy we trace,
And mark the conquests of thy grace;
Complete the work thou hast begun,
And let thy will on earth be done.

O, show thyself the Prince of Peace,
Command the din of war to cease;
O, bid contending nations rest,
And love pervade each human breast.

Then peace shall lift her balmy wing,
Glad plenty laugh, the valleys sing;
Reviving commerce lift her head,
And want, and woe, and hate be fled.

Thou good, and wise, and righteous Lord,
All move subservient to thy word;
O, soon let ev'ry nation prove
The perfect joy of Christian love.

THE NON-RESISTANT CHURCH

The Church and the government have different functions and programs which may bring them into conflict. There have been times when serious conflicts have occurred because the Church would not yield herself to serve the government.

Perhaps the most frequent cause of conflict has been the Church's persistent policy of non-resistance. The Church has considered the taking of human life a heinous crime, even when done under the auspices of the government. In fact, the Church has an abhorrence for all things that pertain to the military.

The government has the prerogative of keeping the peace, punishing evil doers and maintaining law and order. So it has set up a system that will threaten, shoot or even kill in order to accomplish its purpose. That system requires many people, whether volunteers or draftees. This can create a problem for the members of the church when they are drafted to become a part of this system devoted to violence. The government insists on their compliance, while they feel a greater compliance to their Lord who has taught them by word and example that they are not to participate in such activities. This conflict is the sharpest when the government, involved in war, needs all the men it can get. The patriotic hoopla that surrounds such an event creates a community that is unsympathetic towards those who refuse to be a part of the military.

This country has provided for the freedom of religion in various ways. It allows for the building and maintaining of places of worship, often tax free. There have been laws enacted to allow those, who can maintain their heart felt convictions concerning

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non-resistance, to perform other types of service that would be for the public good rather than be a part of the military. Even with these laws there are often pressures in the community on those who would dare to be different. The government wants all to conform to its programs, so is very hesitant about allowing some to escape from military service. Military service is presented as the patriotic duty of each citizen, forgetting that the greatest patriotic service that may be performed by a citizen is praying for the country and its leaders. The power of prayer is far greater than the power of the most destructive military weapons ever developed.

The greatest power this country can have is Christian lives. Christians willing to stand up for their beliefs, whether they are popular or not, are a great strength. When Christians go along with the government's anti-Christian programs they are denying the Source of all power. They are following a course that lessens the saltiness of the salt. Since Christians are to be the salt of the earth they must maintain that saltiness by the lives they live and by the beliefs they stand for.

Though the Church should appreciate the benefits she has in this country she dares not allow herself to become a promoter of the government's program of military life. She must be wary of the government's use of force either within the country or elsewhere. No matter how stirring and patriotic and seemingly righteous the government's military operations may appear, the Christian must maintain his loyalty to his Lord and Master.

Governments have, do and will fight, but the Christian dare not participate. There must remain a separation between the Church and the world, no matter how benign that world may appear to us. To allow ourselves to be associated with the government during benign times may obligate us to be associated with it during more trying times. To give allegiance to the government now could make it more difficult to refuse to supply men to be a part of the government's military machine. There must remain a tension between the church and the government.

The Church's relationship with the government is usually on an individual basis. The government attempts to draft individuals into the military. The government does not draft the whole church, although the church may become involved in individuals' cases. This means that individual members must know what and why they believe as they do. This makes it mandatory that each one is able to give his reasons for his beliefs. Not only must their doctrinal beliefs be made known but their lives must conform to that doctrine in their every day lives. Sermons and literature are necessary to help develop and sustain these beliefs but the most important thing is a life, non-resistant in all its dealings with others.

This requires a life seeking the welfare of others ahead of self. It is an attitude of helpfulness and a willingness to suffer rather than

to retaliate. The non-resistant life must be lived daily during difficult situations involving those who may be hard to get along with. Non-resistance is not only to be applied when there is a war going on and the government is seeking soldiers.

The church has a great responsibility not only to her Lord but even to the government. Her responsibility is to pray for the national well-being and to stand up for what is taught in the Word of God. Her prayers and her righteousness is of greater value than all the weapons, supplies and lives that may be committed to warfare.

The church carries out her responsibilities through her individual members. Each one must be true and faithful.

DO YOU AGREE?

As I put my interpretations of the times and the fulfillment of scriptures into writing, I wonder if the readers of the Bible Monitor are in agreement.

I am not a pessimist, but I must accept God's Word at face value. As I study it, I feel that prophecies are rapidly being fulfilled. Serious events happening over the entire world indicate that to me.

Consider with me some happenings during the last several years. Ravaging fires in our National Forests. Devastating earthquakes in California, as well as other locations. Tornadoes and hurricanes on the East coast. Draught in the mid-west. Shortage in water at many locations. Contaminated waters many places, including lakes and streams, often to the extent they no longer support marine life. Floods in Bangladesh. Very serious and numerous accidents in the air transportation industry.

America is so wasteful, that she can hardly handle the huge accumulation of garbage. Some is produced in every day manufacturing. Even good food is a big garbage item. Many restaurants carry to the garbage good food that people ordered, paid for, but did not eat. This is waste and the Bible teaches, "Waste not, want not."

There have been hijackings of airplanes. People have been held as hostages. These are serious crimes of our day, often involving innocent people.

The foolish fashions of the world extending even to nudism, is strictly against God's Word. Sexual sins have become rampant world wide. God's Word strictly condemns them. As a consequence, He has allowed the incurable disease of AIDS to inflict disobedient people. Great numbers have experienced death because of sin.

Marriage is a very sacred ceremony, instituted by God, but has little meaning any more in America. Millions of men and women

are living together as man and wife without the marriage ceremony. This is not pleasing to God. Divorce and remarriage are all disapproved by God. Matthew 19:9, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, EXCEPT IT BE FOR FORNICATION, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

I think God is trying to show to the human race His disapproval of the way many people are living for the pleasures of this world instead of walking in the foot-steps of the Master.

Every day in the United States there are 240 cases of arson, 3,190 couples are divorced, 4,106 telephone calls are made to Dial-a-Porn, in comparison to 825 telephone calls to Dial-a-Prayer. This comparison indicates where peoples' minds are. In addition to the above, 11,800 American homes are burglarized and 49 Americans murdered. All this crime in a matter of twenty-four hours and repeated every day of the year.

The Prophet Isaiah foreknew, centuries before it would take place and prophesied, that there would be works of iniquity and violence. He correctly foretold it in his day, and we, in our day, see it being fulfilled. The commandments, "Thou shalt not kill" and Luke 3:14, "Do violence to no man", are being ignored today.

Lotteries and other forms of gambling appeal to the human side of life. God's Word gives Christians instructions in Romans 12:17, "Provide all things honest in the sight of all men." I have barely touched the subject as it applies to the United States. I want to take your minds across the waters to the Land where Jesus walked.

Under date line, Jerusalem, December 24, 1989 I wish to give a few excerpts from an article appearing in the papers. The Christians in the Holy Land are giving up their faith in preference to the Jewish and Moslem faiths. Four decades ago almost all stores were owned by Arab Christians, while today only 20 of 200 shops in the Christian quarter remain in Christian ownership. Sounds very similar as to what is happening in the United States. Foreigners are buying up choice properties, hotels, banks, manufacturing companies and so forth and before we realize it, we may fall under, "One currency, one religion and one government."

More excerpts: Christians are wondering what to do in Palestine if Islamic and Moslem forces continue to gain power. The News Items say that in Jerusalem people are losing hope. Might we in America, say the same thing?

As far as our natural life is concerned, the future looks dismal. But, if we follow the meek and lowly Lamb, faithfully until death, we have a positive hope of Heaven.

More excerpts from the Jerusalem News Item: The Arab Christians, many descendents of the first followers of Christ, have

been a troubled minority in the Holy Land since the Moslem conquest in the seventh century. The final item: "The Churches of Jerusalem could become museums if people keep leaving." THINK ABOUT IT. Jesus raised the question, "WILL I FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH WHEN I COME AGAIN?"

I have read numerous articles, written by men who are concerned regarding the times we are in. They very much agree that part of the dilemma we are in is the lack of Holy Spirit power back of the modern church pulpit. The fire is out or sadly needs re-fueling. Another reason cited, is that too many people are at the place the Apostle Paul wrote about in II Timothy 4:3, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrines; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." But, regardless of what people want to hear, the Apostle Paul has some instruction for the ministers, also. So many sermons are designed to humor people rather than convict them, in II Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." It is not hard for the minister to preach about salvation, heaven and Eternal life. But subjects such as sin, lost and eternal punishment are subjects to be dwelt on and are just as important.

As far as this world is concerned, Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:13, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Conditions in the world are not going to get better.

God has provided a remedy for those who do not want to live under condemnation. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We are to bear the fruits of the Spirit and not the fruits of the flesh. Galatians 4:9 and 6:8. Romans 8:13, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

God offered the people of old a remedy for sin based on His conditions, and I believe that He would honor the same conditions today. II Chronicles 7:14, "IF MY PEOPLE, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Amid all the sin surrounding us we must STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate. Luke 13:24.

DO YOU AGREE?

Brother Paul R. Myers
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TIME GOES ON

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Romans 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Revelation 10:6, "And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer."

Every human being is a creature of time. As Job stated in Job 14:1, "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble." By the time you read this, Lord willing, we will have passed from the 1980's to the 1990's. In ten short years we will reach the year 2000, should the Lord tarry. There are those who teach that the earth, as we know it, cannot stand more than 2000 years.

Our opening verse, Genesis 1:1, tells of the beginning of time as we know it. Before this was eternity past, which the human finite mind cannot fully comprehend. We soundly reject the "gap theory" which teaches that there was a creation spoken of in this verse which was destroyed before the creation of Adam.

As most of us know, Adam fell and we inherited the adamic sin. Therefore we are not only creatures of time but we are also fallen individuals who need a Savior. Acts 3:19 tells us of a need of repentance. It is not popular in some church circles to teach that we must repent of our evil deeds and turn away from worldly desires. But we are assured if we do so that our sins will be blotted out. As a result of this we are told that we will enjoy times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. While the days that are "full of trouble" which Job saw will not end for a Christian, we can be assured that the Spirit of the Lord will bring times of refreshing. We have something wonderful to comfort and give us strength that the world knows nothing of. Just within the last few months of 1989 we have known of several within the church family who have laid away loved ones. They will never see 1990's in physical life. Yet we have that great assurance that they are very much alive in the presence of the Lord. Surely this is one of the many times of refreshing which is ours as a Christian.

Our verse found in Romans 13:11 reminds us that our salvation is more than a one time experience. We praise God for the time when we received His Holy Spirit and became a child of God. But we must prove faithful until we leave time on earth and enter into

eternity. We are warned that it is "high time to awake out of sleep." First of all this is an individual warning. All too many of God's children take their walk with the Lord all too lightly. They "sleep" while the devil takes them from temptation to actual involvement in sin. We must be alert if we are to make Heaven our home. Satan cannot deny anyone saved by the blood of Christ their reward of a home in Heaven. For we read in John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my Father's hand." While Satan is not a "man" we believe we also have the assurance that even he cannot "pluck them out of my Father's hand." But we can lose our salvation by "sleeping" when we should be reading the Word of God and striving to live thereby. As we are told in Ephesians 5:14-16, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, Because the days are evil."

The warning to "awake out of sleep" is also for the Church. For many years now the church, as a whole, has been "asleep" while the truths of God's Word have been set aside one by one. We have come to a place where we worship time in place of the timeless Word of God. We recognize that time will bring about some changes both in the Church and in our everyday lives. Such things as the use of electric lights and other modern improvements should be seen as a blessing from God, in our humble opinion. But when time causes a change in the way we worship we should use utmost caution in accepting it.

Our study verse taken from Revelation 10:6 speaks again of the Creation. In Revelation 1:8 we read, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending, saith the Lord,..." God brought time into being and He will bring the end of time. As our verse says "that there should be time no longer." We only know of Creation by the Word of God and we only know of end times by the Word of God. The beginning and the end are in His hands. Our finite minds cannot grasp all the intricate details. We must accept it by faith.

May our desire be to follow the Lord day by day as He gives us time here on earth and desire that we may spend eternity with Him when time shall be no more.

Brother James M. Hite
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

GOD IS

God is! He was from the beginning and will be forever more. He is the Creator of the Universe and this universe proves its Maker and shows His design. Man was created by God as a moral and intellectual being and our very nature and religious instinct argue for His existence. God is!

God, only has the attribute of infinity and since we are limited in this sense it is difficult to comprehend. God only is Trinity... three in one, in the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is ONE in three persons. God is!

God is unchanging or immutable. He is Omnipresent... everywhere. He is sovereign with supreme control and power... the orchestrator of the universe. He is omniscient which allows Him to know all things past, present and future. He is omnipotent which means that He has all power in the universe. He is just... not a respecter of persons. He is love... showing the highest good of any being. He is truth and is consistent in all that is represented by Himself. He is holy... or righteous. God is!

Biblical names give us clues to what God is like. He is Jehovah... the self-existent One, the I AM, in other word. He is Elohim, or the strong one. This is an interesting plural word and shows His plurality. He is Adonai, or Lord and this name teaches us of a Master-servant relationship. God is El Elyon, the most high. He is El Roni, the Strong One and El Shaddai, the Almighty God. He is El Olam, the everlasting. He is Jehovah Jireh, the provider, Jehovah Nissi, our banner, Jehovah Shalom, our peace and Jehovah Raah, our Shepherd. God is!

Now, these are all Biblical terms and definitions and may be a little hard to fathom in our product oriented, industrial society. So, how might we describe God in today's kind of thinking? Who is God like?

God is like... Bayer Aspirin. He works wonders.

God is like... Dial Soap. He gives you "round the clock protection."

God is like... Pan-Am. He makes the going great.

God is like... Coke. He's the real thing.

God is like... Scope. He makes you feel fresh.

God is like... G.E. Bulbs. He lights our path.

God is like... Hallmark Cards. He cares enough to send the very best.

Believe. God is!

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1930

CONVERSION

Reuben Shroyer

"And Jesus called a little child unto him and set him in the midst of them and said, verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:2-3) "Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:6) Conversion is a change of life, is turning to God in faith and repentance. Repentance has two parts.

1. Aversion - turning from the world, the flesh and the devil.
2. Conversion - turning to God. Mortification, is a dying to the world. "For if ye live after the flesh ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live." (Rom. 8:13) Vivification, is a living to God. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:11) God sent his Son to save on conditions. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Actually accomplished, — "And the hand of the Lord was with them and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:21) "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." (I Thess. 1:9).

Negative side. What conversion is not. Not a mere confession. "They profess that they know God, but in works they deny him being abominable and disobedient and unto every good work reprobate." (Titus 1:16) Not an outward conformity. Not a form of Godliness but denying the power. "Having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof, from such turn away." (II Tim. 3:5)

Not an excitement of feeling. Felix and Agrippa, samples.

Not reformation but regeneration. "Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." To be born again means to be regenerated.

Positive side. What conversion is. A change of nature and heart. "Let this mind be in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5) "But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men and being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:7-8).

A yielding to God. "That if thou shalt confer with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised

him from the dead thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9)

"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God as those that are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Rom. 6:13) "Know ye not that ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness." (Rom. 6:16)

Change of life and nature. "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17) "For when we were in the flesh the motions of sins which were by the law did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter." (Rom. 7:5-6)

Putting off the old man. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the Spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:22-24)

To be born again. "Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) "Being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." (I Peter 1:23)

Must become as little children. "And Jesus called a little child unto him and set him in the midst of them and said, verily, I say unto you except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven." (Matt. 18:2-3)

Three things necessary for conversion. 1. Conviction. Conviction is the act of convincing an individual of error, of wrong, of sin. 2. Contrition and Faith in Christ. Without conviction there is no contrition. Without contrition there is no possibility of faith. Without faith there is no chance for conversion. There are also three important changes in conversion:

Change of heart or mind; change of life; change of relationship.

1. Faith changes the heart.
2. Repentance the life.
3. Baptism the relationship.

Conversion is a change of heart or disposition in which the enmity of the heart to God and his law and the obstinacy of the will is subdued and is succeeded by a supreme love to God and his will.

How is conversion wrought? What means are given us to bring it about?

"The law of the Lord is perfect and converts the soul." (Psalms 19:7)

Therefore, "we are born again not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Notice the incorruptible seed must be received in the heart that produces the new life. Paul said the Gospel was the power of God unto salvation.

Man a tool, an agent. Peter, an agent in the conversion of the Pentecostians. Ananias, in Saul's case. Paul in the jailer's and Lydia's case and many others.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Are you looking, yea, searching for something in the Christian life that your fellowship does not offer? Do you feel that your fellowship is missing something and you have every intention to search for it until you find it? If you must search for something, search the scriptures. Therein is found the answer to every problem. The modern movements of our day may have bits of truth in them, but beware of the charismatic and ecumenical spirits that mix truth with error. They try to tell the church that holy, separated living is not necessary. They also try to tell us that the old landmarks cause division in the church rather than build it up. Let us search the scriptures. If it is a fight of faith we are involved in as we are told in the scriptures, then fight we will and fight we must. The devil is trying to rob us of our crown at every turn. We have seen many who are plain, simple Christians give up their distinctiveness and cast their lot with those churches of the world. From what we have observed these folks are no happier, no better situated than before. Did it pay them to assimilate into the world? We think not. Did they find what they were looking for? If it was a holier, closer walk with God, then the answer is no. If they were looking for an excuse for their sins or a salve for their stricken consciences, probably so. The Bible says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. The Bible also tells us that we should unite with the church and serve it faithfully. A saved, consecrated, sanctified life of service to Christ through the church cannot be condemned. Herein lies deep spiritual satisfaction.

Lynn H. Miller

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OATH-BOUND SOCIETIES

J. H. Moore

"Jesus at one time, defined his policy in dealing with the public by saying: "In secret I have said nothing." He also declared that he had spoken "openly before the world" (John 18:20). Paul affirmed

the same truth in his address before King Festus. Speaking of his conversion and the resurrection of Christ, he said: "This thing was not done in a corner." (Acts 26:26).

Whatever may have been said against Christ and his teaching, he was never charged with establishing a secret order. No one in his day ever intimated that he was even a member of such a society. Christ founded the Christian church, and that is the only body with which he was connected. He laid down the principles by which this church should be governed, but never laid down principles for a secret order, or any other order apart from the church. In the New Testament there is not the remotest hint that any of the early followers of Christ belonged to a secret order, or lodge of any character. For them the church was considered sufficient, and for the principles it represents they labored and died.

Secret societies are incompatible with Christianity. Secret orders are for the few and the select, — principally for men. Christianity is for all the world. It is for "whosoever will." All may accept it, if they so will. Secret orders are for the strong, — those capable of taking care of themselves, and especially for the rich and the well-to-do. Christianity is for the poor and maimed, as well as for the rich and the strong.

Most secret orders claim to be religious institutions, but they are not Christian institutions. In some of them the name of Christ is not used. They pose as religious orders, but have no salvation to offer. Not one of them has the new birth, and on whatever grounds they may offer life beyond, it must be independent of the new birth, and that, too, in the very face of the fact that Jesus said: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Christians of every age and clime are instructed not to become "unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (II Cor. 6:14), and yet that is the very thing that man who enters a secret, oath-bound lodge must do. He must fellowship with the Jew, the Moham-medan, the Buddhist, and others who do not believe in Christ, and regard them as his brethren. Here, behind closed doors, the believer in Christ Jesus must fellowship with men with whom he would never think of fellowshipping in his church. He may admit that they are good enough for his lodge, but he will not admit that they are good enough for his church.

We are not saying that a secret society has no right to exist. That is another question. But we do say that a secret, oath-bound society is no place for Christian men. The tendency of the lodge is to rob the church of men, talent, money and influence. Most lodge men are faithful to their lodge, but only a small per cent of them will do as much for their church as they do for their lodge. They will

not neglect their lodge dues, but they will neglect their financial obligations to their church. There is nothing in all this country that is draining the churches like the lodges. Men give their time, talent, money and influence to the lodge, and let the church stand or fall as circumstances may determine.

These societies are misleading thousands with false pretensions. At the death of a member, though he be the rankest unbeliever in Christianity in the community, they speak of his admission into the "Grand Lodge above," thus giving the public to understand that they have life eternal to offer independent of Christ. Not only so, but, according to the claims of such orders, the scheme of redemption, as set forth in the teachings of Christ, cuts no necessary figure in salvation. Young men, who are led to believe this, unite with the lodge, and stake their chance of salvation on what the lodge may have to offer. In this way they are led away from the church. This places the lodge in competition with the church, claiming for itself everything that the church may have to offer in the way of future life and happiness.

NEWS ITEMS

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation will not hold their Lovefeast on their set date of February 3 this year but will hold it in conjunction with District Meeting, April 13-15.

We invite you to come.

Sister Susan Cook, Cor.

EXPLANATION

In response to the many questions regarding the letter requesting donations to assist the congregation at Montrose, Colorado to purchase a Church building, we offer the following:

We do appreciate the care and interest of the author of the letter, but feel that it was assumptive and premature. We do not feel a justifiable need for a building yet, since there are only two families who are meeting together here at this time. We do not have a building in mind to purchase. When the time comes that we feel a justified need for a building, we no doubt will let it be known. We greatly appreciate the services of our Bro. Warren Smith who comes to minister to us whenever his many other obligations permit him to.

May God richly bless each one of you for your prayers, care and concern for our small group here.

Brother Oty Reed
Brother Marvin Marks

NOTICE

I use this means to thank the many Brethren, Sisters and kind friends for your cards, letters and telephone calls over the Holiday Season, as well as the rest of this past year.

I cannot personally answer each one, I greatly appreciate each one.

I pray God's richest Blessings on each of you. Keep faithful to your Saviour and may the year 1990 be Spirit filled and extra good to you.

Brother Paul R. Myers



A converted man, once an infidel, said to a friend: "One Sabbath morning while in South America I went into the woods in search of game. After a while I sat down on a log. My attention was drawn to a neighboring tree by the cries of a bird, which was fluttering over her nest, apparently in great distress. On looking 'round I saw a snake creeping along toward the tree, with his eye fixed on the bird and her nest. Presently I saw the male bird fly quickly away, as if anxious to get something. In a little while he returned with a twig, covered with leaves, in his mouth. Perching near the nest, he laid the twig carefully over his mate and her young, entirely covering them, and then, taking his place on one of the top-most branches of the tree, he awaited the arrival of the enemy. By this time the snake had reached the tree. Twisting himself around the trunk, he climbed up; then gliding along the branch till he came near the nest, he lifted his head as if he were going to dart upon the poor bird. He looked at the nest for a moment, and then, suddenly throwing back his head, made his way down the tree as fast as he could and went off. Climbing up the tree, and examining the leaves of the twig, which had been such a shield and defense to that helpless bird, I found that it had been broken off from a bush which is poisonous to the snake, and which it is never known to touch. In a moment the question arose in my mind: Who taught this bird its only weapon of defense in such an hour of danger? And quick as thought came the answer, None but God.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1990

February 4 - The law, a Schoolmaster - Galatians 3:15-29.

1. What were the limitations of the law? v. 21, Rom. 8:3.
2. How is the law still a blessing to us? v. 24.

February 11 - Sonship - Galatians 4:1-18.

1. Notice the transition from servitude to sonship.
2. How can this transition be possible? v. 4.

February 18 - The Two Covenants - Galatians 4:19-31.

1. Describe the two covenants.
2. Upon which covenant do you base your faith?

February 25 - Christian Liberty - Galatians 5:1-15.

1. What is Christian liberty?
2. Name some abuses of this liberty seen today.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1990

February 4 - Faith - Luke 8:22-25, Heb. 11:6, James 1:5-6, James 2:14-26.

1. Define faith as it applies to our Christian life.
2. How can faith be strengthened?

February 11 - Baptism - Matt. 28:19-20, John 3:1-11, Acts 2:38.

1. What is baptism a symbol of? Rom. 6:3-5.
2. What role does baptism play in the process of regeneration?

February 18 - Inward Fire - Ps. 39:3, Luke 12:49, Luke 24:32, Ro. 10:1-13.

1. What is this inward fire?
2. How can we ignite and feed this fire? Luke 24:32.

February 25 - Life's Purpose - Joshua 24:15, Matt. 6:33, John 4:34, John 17:4.

1. Define what our life purposes should be.
2. What are you purposing to do with your life?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

FEBRUARY 1, 1990

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ARITHMETIC

Add Christ to your life —
Plus the love He gives.
Those who follow Him
He always forgives.

Subtract any wrongs —
They are Satan's darts.
They can take away
Jesus from your heart.

Multiply all good
That you do for men.
Good given away
Will return again.

Don't divide your love
Between right and wrong.
Join the faithful few —
Reject the world's throng.

Now to sum it up...
When you are set free
From your worldly ways,
Peace will dwell with thee.

Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

PAUL'S DILEMMA

Paul had two choices before him. While he clearly preferred one, there were reasons that made the other choice desirable also. "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." Phil. 1:23-24.

It is easy to understand Paul's desire to depart this life and exchange it for Heaven. Heaven had been his goal since his conversion. Everything that was lacking in this world was there in unending abundance, but it was not the beauties and prosperity of Heaven that was so appealing. It was the Spiritual joys and privileges. There he could be with his Saviour. There he could have an unending fellowship with the believers who had departed this Earth before him. There he would have the rest, he never knew in the world.

Even before becoming a Christian he had been very busy and diligent in his rise to his place of eminence. He had been very diligent in the persecution of the Church. As a Christian he had devoted similar exertion to the missionary activities entrusted him. Even during the extensive periods of time spent in prison, he had been busy writing epistles to the various congregations. He had counseled the leadership of the churches as well as individuals. He had used the time to study the Word of God.

Heaven certainly was very appealing, for many reasons, for Paul. It offered everything that was lacking in his earthly life. Being absent from his earthly body meant he could be present with the Lord in Heaven.

The transfer from Earth to Heaven would mean going through death. The earthly body could not enter into that unworldly realm.

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He would have to give up his physical, earthly life in order to have eternal life. This would mean he must be willing to yield to the persecution that had been directed against him since he had become a Christian. Whatever physical price was necessary, he was willing to pay it.

His statement clearly shows that this was his heart's desire. He would be done with the pain and uncertainty of this life, so he could have all that Heaven offered him.

But as desirable as Heaven was to him, still he had a desire to remain, so he could continue to serve the Church. While his personal choice would be to depart, he realized that the greatest good would be accomplished by remaining to help his fellow Christians. He saw there was a great need in the Church, which he could help alleviate.

It would seem hard to be on the brink of Heaven, only to postpone it, so help could be given to fellow believers. This would mean continued physical persecution and hardship. He would be facing emotional and Spiritual struggles. There would be a price for him to pay. It hardly seems a fair choice. Yet, for Paul it was a fairly easy choice. His remaining to serve the Church was accomplishing greater good. Besides his departure would not be until the Lord called him away, anyway. His mind could be at ease, wherever the Lord desired to use him, whether Heaven or Earth.

The selfless Spirit shown by Paul should serve as an example for all Christians. Each should be willing to sacrifice his fondest desire in order to secure greater good for fellow believers or to further the spread of the gospel. In a world that is devoted to self advancement the desire to serve others is not understood or appreciated. Our human natures want to be appreciated and applauded rather than serving. The "me-first" attitude of the world has affected the Church.

It is hard to give up our desires, whether worldly or Spiritual. The family of God has a claim upon our talents and resources. Paul was willing to spend and to be spent in his Christian service. He saw the good of others as superior to his own good.

This was his imitation of the example Christ had put before His followers. Jesus had given Himself in service and sacrifice. As a follower of Christ, Paul was offering himself in a similar way. Paul was an example for the Christians then and for us today.

In Heaven the Christian can serve God in a perfect way. It is a worthy goal. The Christian dare not let that goal keep him from day by day service to fellow believers and to a lost world. There is a greater good that demands the price of self-sacrifice.

With your desire for Heaven, do you desire to help others even when your own desire might be postponed. How would you solve Paul's dilemma in your life?

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1930

JESUS LEADS

C. F. Rush

"Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies: make thy way straight before my face." (Psalms 5:8)

Upon starting out in a new year it occurs to me as a people that we should be inclined to look to the Lord as leader and director of our movements in general. That we may thereby be protected from the evil one and that we may rejoice for a straight and narrow way as the Psalmist implies. When we consider the attitude in many instances where the Lord's direction is not observed as man considers himself able to follow the straight and narrow way, but before going far he is on the broad and crooked road which seems easier to travel as there are no restrictions, and the Great Leader is not thought of. We are inclined much like the generations of the past, there is a tendency to forget God.

In earlier years we very often heard announcements of future gatherings along with, "If the Lord wills." But now usually the Lord's will is omitted and we say we will do so in strong terms. However, the former sounds much better so we think, at least, and he will lead and help us yet as ever if we do not neglect him as our superior. The Pharisee pretended to pray of his self-righteousness and to be heard, but the Publican's prayer was heard instead because of his quiet and unassuming manner. Rom. 8:14: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Again, we see that unless we allow the Spirit of God to lead we will very likely be led by some other. Therefore it is important in the choosing of our leader. As we are much inclined like sheep for we will follow something or else nothingness.

I like to think of sheep as they naturally follow a known master gladly. But are not inclined to be driven as that does not appeal to their nature so well, and upon forcing them to move they give up and sullenly lie down. Seems to me there are some very good lessons with reference to flocks that we might profit by considering more.

John 10:2-3, "But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out."

"Lead me through the fields of sunshine
And the pastures green:

On Thy arms of love and mercy
Let me every lean.
Lead me, Shepherd, through the valleys,
Lest I go astray:
Lead me kindly Shepherd, lead me,
to the perfect day.
Lead me through the night's grim shadows
To the perfect dawn,
Of the day to which we're hastening
Lead me kindly on."

NEWS ITEMS

1990 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 9 - 13, 1990

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Memorial Holiness Camp, West Milton, Ohio, June 9 through June 13, 1990. More information will be given later.

Please send reservations to:

Brother Don Hostetler
5855 Sweet Potato Ridge Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Brother Paul L. Stump
Arrangements Committee



A contented man was asked to give the secret of his state. The venerable old man replied, "It consists in nothing more than making a right use of my eyes. In whatever state I am I first of all look up to Heaven, and remember that my principal business here is to get there; I then look down upon the earth, and call to mind how small a place I shall occupy in it when I die and am buried; I then look abroad in the world, and observe what multitudes there are who are in all respect more unhappy than myself; thus I learn where true happiness is placed, where all our cares must end, and what little reason I have to repine."

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism
Plain Dressing
Which is the Right Church?
The Service of Feet Washing as a Religious Rite
What Shall I Do With The Commandments of Jesus?
Daily Reminder
The Lord's Supper
The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil
The Brethren's Card
Do You Want Salvation?
Bible Teachings
The Sabbath - Its Origin and Observance

PUBLICATION BOARD

Bible Monitor (semi-monthly)
\$2.00 per year in advance.
Brethren Hymnal (heavy back)
\$9.00 ea. \$105.00 doz. Plus Postage
Church Manual \$.30
The Bible Outline \$.45; \$5.10 doz.
The Old Testament History
\$.55; \$6.00 doz.
The New Testament History
\$.60; \$6.50 doz.
No charge for the following:
Polity Booklet
Instructions for Applicants
Baptismal Certificate Blanks
Church Letter Blanks
Credential Blanks
Minutes of General Conference in One Volume
\$.425 ea. plus \$.35 postage each.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as "thot" for thought, "2" for two; "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe; recieve for receive; judgement for judgment; ore for or; & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

First Sat. Feb. - Winterhaven, CA
 Third Sat. March - Quinter, KA
 First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA
 Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO
 Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA
 First Sat. May - Pleasant Home, CA
 First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA
 Second Sat. May - Dayton, VA
 Third Sat. May - West Fulton, OH
 Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA
 Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD
 Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD
 First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD
 Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA
 Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH
 Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA
 First Sat. Nov. - Newberg, OR
 First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, exit 6. The church and the school are located together.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmans-town, in Lebanon Co. or halfway between Schaffertown and Womeisdorf, Pennsylvania.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Rt. #135 at McCoole (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Ward's Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa., all improved roads. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, 1½ miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 on to County Rd. R16 at west edge of city. The church is ¾ mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton. (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The brick church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PA. CUMBERLAND CO.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into East and West, and by Rt. 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington St., four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. #50 and then north one mile.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md., from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses #15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The Church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: From the South on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to

the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon Ave. Church is on the left. Coming from the North on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rte. 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The Church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stoplight, turn right on N. Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8 at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one-half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD

About midway between Frederick, Md. and Hanover, Pa. One-fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 alternate, three and one-half miles west of junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. Rt. 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Rt. 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

HART, MI - From Muskegon go north on Route 31 to Hart exit. Go left from freeway about 1½ miles to tee in road, turn right, go approximately ½ mile to church on left side of road.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba,

New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road going to the left. A Mission sign marks the junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Mary Alice Skiles; Marcus and Jenny Wray; James Noecker; Gina Flory; Renita Trujillo and Johnelle Trujillo. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: R. 2 Box 8; Cuba, New Mexico 87013; Phone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

FEBRUARY 15, 1990

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

TAKE TIME

Take time to make a happy home,
One of love and work and play,
A home where God is important,
Where you worship Him each day.

Take time to study the Bible,
To listen as well as talk,
To view God's nature around you
Or in the woods take a walk.

Take time to hear the birds singing,
And stroll by a lazy stream.
Then why not rest upon a log
And meditate or daydream?

Take time to make others happy;
By actions, show that you care.
Your happiness can be catching,
So let's be willing to share.

- Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

SEEKING GOD'S WILL

Moses was busy. He had many problems to solve and decisions to make. At one point early in the wilderness wanderings he was almost beside himself trying to judiciously answer the multitude of problems and squabbles that arose amongst the children of Israel. His father-in-law, Jethro, suggested that he establish a federal system so assistant judges could handle minor cases and spare Moses from hearing all but the most serious cases.

Later in the journey a problem arose that demanded an answer and Moses wanted to be sure he did what was right, so he sought the Lord's Will. This incident is recorded in Leviticus 24.

When the children of Israel left Egypt to travel toward the Promised Land, more than just the Israelites went out. A mixed multitude made up of various people, left their native land for various reasons. Despite the good direction of their leaders, many Israelites took spouses from among the natives of Egypt. Among these was a woman who had an Egyptian husband. This couple had a son. That son was part of that mixed multitude.

One day this son became involved in an argument with an Israelite. It was a very sharp verbal battle. In the excitement of the encounter the son blasphemed the name of the Lord. This was heard by several witnesses who informed Moses. This fact was established not by the testimony of the adversary, but by two or three witnesses. These witnesses declared that this young man had indeed sworn, using the Lord's name in vain.

If the defendant had been an Israelite there would have been no problem in deciding what to do. But he was not an Israelite; he was of the mixed multitude. Should the penalty be the same?

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Moses did not want to set a precedent on his own. He wanted guidance from the Lord. He was seeking the will of God which could be expressed as the mind, the mouth or the commandment of God. God soon answered Moses' plea for help.

The Lord's direction was: that the accusing witnesses were to lay their hands on the defendants head and the congregation was to stone him for his blasphemy. This was the same penalty that would have been given an Israelite. The law was to be the same for the stranger as it was for the native. This is the basis for the equal application of our civil laws as well as the Spiritual law.

Today men often lack the wisdom of Moses. Whether they are in leadership positions or just concerned with their own personal affairs they are more apt to do what they think right rather than seek the will and wisdom of the Lord. Men have exalted themselves so they believe they know just what should be done. If Moses felt the need for divine guidance, then men today should seek the same kind of guidance.

We are human. He is almighty God. How can we know His mind?

God has favored us with the Bible. There He has revealed His will for all men. Since the Bible was written by godly men who were moved by the Spirit of God, the Spirit which now indwells each Christian will never lead in a way contrary to what is revealed in the Bible. It is impossible for God to be divided. The third person of the Godhead cannot lead in two directions at once. The Word of God gives direction through precept and example.

The indwelling Spirit guides the Christian in the proper direction. There is no way a man would dare instruct God in what He should do or demand. The Spirit that activated Christ to humble submission to the Father's Will is the same Spirit that would direct us if we are willing to be led. Having that Spirit will make us eager to do as the Father wills. The Spirit also assists in our prayers, when we do not know how or for what we should pray. He can carry our prayers Heavenward so they can be answered by the God whose will we desire to know and do.

Moses needed to know God's Will. We need to seek and know His Will just as much today. In the midst of a world that is secular and opposed or at the best lukewarm towards God, the Christian needs guidance that will cause him to act wisely, not only doing what is best for himself but also for others.

God's will can be known through Bible study, prayer and submissive yielding to Him. Since it is knowable, we are responsible for seeking it and following it, whether as individuals or as a group of Christian believers.

You may not be in a position like Moses, but you still need to know God's Will. Be as willing to be directed by God as he was. He found God's Will. You can find God's Will.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED AMERICA?

In the last half century and especially in the last two decades, tragic changes have taken place in the every day life of the people.

Where are the statesmen of prior years, who were unafraid to stand for the right and not be ashamed to get down on their knees and pray? Where are the statesmen who sought God's help and direction in the establishing of the Constitution and laws of our early government. Men like Abraham Lincoln, who walked several miles to return a few cents change to a customer he overcharged. Men like George Washington, who could not tell a lie, admitting he cut down a cherry tree.

History records the fact that years ago, men of integrity, when attending a public function, where drinks were being served, refused to partake, turning their glasses upside down, indicating their refusal. Why do we not read of such occurrences in government functions today? Because it is not that way today. Whether it is a few men in a committee meeting, a White House dinner, or flying to the four corners of the earth, the taxpayers have to pay for their liquor. **WHAT HAS HAPPENED?**

Sex scandals, deliberate lying, and dishonesty in handling of public funds has forced more than one government man out of office. Statesmen have turned into politicians. Why would any individual spend more money to gain an office than that office pays in salary? The morals of our land today are sinking to the level of animals.

Consider with me the mothers of our land today. What has happened? Mothers of an earlier day were women of modesty, integrity, chastity and virtue. They wanted and raised children of like character. It is not that way today, in general. As you walk the streets today or observe a group of people, if you are looking for modesty in women, it is much in the minority. The majority are walking the streets in apparel our mothers would have been ashamed to be seen in. Each generation is getting farther away from God's Word. The present generation is setting a horrible example for the young and growing children of our land.

Millions of dollars are spent to reach and discover outer space. More millions are spent in defense armaments and millions more are spent to clean up our environment. At the same time our increasing moral pollution goes on unheeded.

Our courts have ruled out prayer in our schools. They allowed sex education to come in. The news media gives little space to acts of nobility, at the same time splashing obscenity in bold type across the front pages of our periodicals and newspapers.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA?

Do we not have any men of integrity left, who are in authority, who are WILLING and WANTING to rise up against the high tide of crime, lawlessness and immorality? If this decadence is permitted much longer, it will destroy the Liberty, America boasts of.

Very definitely, there is a falling away of the faith of our fathers. When I was a boy, the Church was the focal point of the Community. People wanted to go to Church. It mattered not if it was Sunday or mid-week, if it was in winter or summer, services were well attended. In the days of the horse and buggy, in winter, it often required a storm front on the buggy and a lantern inside to keep warm but people attended. Now with warm, heated cars, they cannot make it to church services. They can go much further, filling stadiums to watch football and baseball games on the Lord's Day. Years ago, parents did not SEND their children to Sunday School and Church. THEY TOOK THEM.

Modern Churches have lost their grip on God's Word. Modernism and worldism have overtaken the modern church. God strictly meant for the Church to overcome the world. Romans 12:21, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Revelations 21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

To overcome Satan, we will definitely have to accept Jesus as our personal Savior, obey Him, and through Him be overcomers. The Bible tells us there will be few overcomers. Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

THE FEW

The easy roads are crowded
And the level roads are jammed;
The pleasant little rivers
With the drifting folks are crammed.
Where the going's smooth and pleasant
You will always find the throng;
For the many, more's the pity,
Seems to like to drift along.

But the steeps that call for courage,
And the task that's hard to do,
In the end results in glory
For the never-wavering few.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The rebel

The Bible thoroughly covers one of the greatest problems of our day ... rebellion. Rebellion is just the opposite of the Christ like characteristic of submission to authority. If we REACT to the sources of authority that God has established, we are rebelling. There are many areas of rebellion to authority that God has listed in His Word and we would like to focus on these.

But first, let me ask you three questions? What would children be like if parents never corrected them in any area of their behavior? What would society be like if there were no rules or laws? What would happen if everyone within a church were allowed to do anything they desired without the direction of the Word of God and the God ordained leaders that direct the work?

Under the Law, death was the penalty for rebellion to parents. In fact, in the Old Testament, judgment dictated that rebellious children be put to death. God wanted youth to learn to submit to the authority and wisdom of their parents. To protect the society from rebellious people, the death penalty was instituted. Rebellion breeds rebellion... within secular society as well as in the church.

A person who is rebellious will be characterized by (1) Not listening to the counsel of those who are wiser. (2) They will react to those in authority rather than act on their counsel. (3) They will react unwisely to those with the gift of wisdom. (4) They will become involved in sinful practices to demonstrate the attitude that they are free from authority and do not have to submit to the laws or to anyone else. (5) They will despise those, God has placed in authority. (6) They will listen to those who are routinely complaining about others and who are already rebellious in their heart. (7) When a person rebels against authority, he will also develop a selfish pride within himself because of his independence from authority. This pride leads to placing other priorities before Christ and the church. This, of course, allows the person to lose his commitment to God and as a result God's authority is then replaced.

What are the consequences to this kind of rebellion? Remember, that for every sin we commit, there are God given consequences in the Bible. The consequences are seen in the context of making foolish decisions. These decisions lead to damaging God's reputation. Ultimately, we become guilt ridden and since we can't live with this emotion for very long, guilt will lead to total separation from God's people. Pride comes into play here and this leads to idolatry which is placing anything before God. We can never rebel against God's authority without replacing it with something else that becomes central in our life and thinking. The Psalmist David pictures a rebellious person as one who lives in a dry land. He is continually frustrated because his actions are contrary to those instilled by Godly training and teaching.

If we are rebellious we must allow this characteristic to be replaced with positive Biblical qualities. Our focus must be corrected and our inner attitude must be changed. Since this is a heart problem, we will need to look at ourselves through God's eyes. We will need to reestablish a response to God's authority. We will have to begin anew to respect God and His authority as well as other types of authority. If you have not learned to accept the authority of your parents, your boss, the government... you will never be able to respond to God's authority.

We must learn greater respect and honor for those in authority. (Not worship, but respect.) We must also submit to them in areas of responsibility that they have over us. We must develop greater humility to respond in a proper way. Now, I know that these qualities all sound as though we are not being our own person... not macho or independent... but they are qualities which will bring about right attitudes of submission within us and will allow us the freedom to function on God's level for us. We will lose the title of being a rebel and will gain respect and the right to lead others.

Brother Len Wertz

THE HAND OF GOD AND THE HAND OF MAN

I Chronicles 21:13, "And David said unto God, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man."

Nehemiah 9:16-17, "But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."

Galatians 5:15, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

The one thing that has probably brought more sadness and heartache into the Church than any other is those who condemn without mercy. While we seldom hear of physical violence within the Church our "hand" is ready to strike anyone who does not fall into line with what we believe. On the other hand, the "hand" of God is full of mercy. David used great wisdom in desiring to fall into the hand of the LORD rather than into the hand of man.

Nehemiah tells us of a group of people who were completely rebellious in their relationship with God. Yet they served a God who was ready to pardon. Are we willing to pardon a brother or a sister who has done us wrong? Or do we "turn our back" on their plea for forgiveness and try to stir up trouble in the Church against them? All too often this is the way the "hand of man" operates.

He tells us God is gracious and merciful. The dictionary definition for gracious is "having or showing kindness, courtesy, charm, and so forth." Is it possible that all too many of our conservative brethren have an attitude problem? We can show kindness and courtesy without compromising our scriptural convictions. God has given us His will for our lives within His Holy Word. He is the perfect judge of all humanity. Yet He judges with kindness and courtesy. Along with this He is merciful. If it were not for the mercy of God we would all be condemned to eternal life in Hell. Not one of us deserves eternal life. Are we as merciful towards others? Are we willing to take into consideration the human weaknesses of our brothers and our sisters? We, again, emphasize that we are not talking about compromising the Faith. We are very grateful that certain situations were taken into account and some who formerly would not have been accepted as members now are. We realize that this leaves room for things of this world to enter into the Church. We are not implying that acts of mercy are always easy to define. Nor are we suggesting that "all of the fences" should be removed. We are simply saying that when a judgment is made it should be made with the right attitude. It should be with the desire to straighten the Church and not to destroy any individual.

We are told that God is slow to anger. As we stated in a previous article, anger is not sin unless it is used wrongly. However, it is an emotion that is filled with danger. Longsuffering is named as a part of the fruit of the Spirit. When we feel that someone in the church has done us wrong are we longsuffering or do we show anger at the first opportunity? Are we willing to go to a brother or a sister and tell them we feel that we have been wronged? When we do this is it

in a spirit of humility or in a spirit of anger? When an individual does approach us with a spirit of anger do we respond with the same spirit or try to show loving concern?

He is also a God of great kindness. The attitude of kindness is included in the word "gracious." Therefore, we believe this speaks of the act of kindness. We can be kind and loving even when we deal with those we strongly disagree with. We personally believe that there would be far less church splits if the spirit of self-centeredness was replaced with the spirit of kindness. The "hand of man" likes to write rules and regulations that God never ordained. It is often these manmade regulations that cause church splits and problems within local congregations. On the other hand, all too many are quickly offended when a minister preaches his convictions. No matter what your personal convictions are concerning our historical practices, they should be dealt with in a spirit of love and kindness. We personally believe that we should be very careful when setting aside our historical practices and convictions.

It says that "God forsook them not." No matter how far into sin a brother or sister may fall we should not forsake them entirely. It should always be our desire to win them back to the Lord. But in doing so we cannot condone the wrong they do.

Paul's words in Galatians are words of wisdom that we do not feel worthy to add to. Let us each take heed to this action of the "hand of man," although it speaks more of the mouth. The hand of man will destroy the church, if that were possible. The hand of God will always build the church up. It is up to us which "hand" we will allow to have pre-eminence.

If you reject the loving attributes of God and His willingness to pardon you will feel the hand of judgment. God does not desire that any should perish but He will judge sin. If the Holy Spirit calls please repent today and feel the loving hand of God.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1930

TAKE HEED

Mark 13

S. P. Van Dyke

We are living in trying times: — In days of delusion; in days of false prophets; in days of deceitful workers; days when there is danger of being led away from the gospel of Jesus Christ. The

Apostle Paul warns us against deceitful workers. (II Cor. 11:13) "For such are false prophets, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (v. 14-15).

These are days of PERIL when the true minister of the gospel must deal with the devil as he is, not as the world thinks he is.

Now we must take the fabled "horns and hoofs, and the forked tail" off the devil, and show him as he really is, a creature of dignity, beauty and great power; with a smooth tongue, and an open Bible, preaching goodness, temperance, love, and so forth. Those people are blind, and deaf. Look at the history of the past, and see his movements against the Christ, from Eden to the manger, and from Calvary to the end, you will see his deception all the way through.

Notice his deception against God in Eden, the world's blackest night, when Satan wrecked the whole world.

Then God declared war on him, and said the seed of the woman, "his son", would bruise his head.

The devil never forgot those words, and he is making a terrible fight. When Cain and Abel were born, Satan thought one of them was the seed that was to crush his head so he had Cain kill Abel and made a God-rejected murderer out of Cain. Later God promised Abraham the seed should come from his off-spring, and the devil began his fight against Israel. As soon as God said that Jacob was the channel that Christ would come, Satan put it into the heart of Esau to murder Jacob.

In the time of Moses, Pharaoh directed by Satan murdered all male children of the Jews, to wipe out the seed of Abraham. When God declared the seed would come through the tribe of Judah, Satan divided the tribes, and warred against Judah.

And so on until finally Christ was born, and what happened? Before he had preached a sermon or performed a miracle, Satan knew he was the seed of the woman that was to crush his head. Directed by Satan, Herod slew all the male children in Bethlehem that he might destroy the Christ.

Failing in this, when Christ was on the cross lifeless he doubtless felt safe, but when he arose from the dead and ascended on high he no longer could fight the seed of the woman.

This is where he changed his tactics, and has been persecuting the church ever since, and instead of being an enemy, a friend (?), but determined to crush the church, because he knows the church

will rule and reign with Christ when he is bound and under the feet of the Son of God.

Through Nero and a host of other devilish men Satan tried to kill the church. But the more he martyred, the more he burned, fed to the lions, the more the church grew. Then Satan saw he could not exterminate the church, he began to use strategy. It would be too much to try to tell what Satan has tried to do through strategy, the last, say two thousand years, against Christ and the church. But he is not done yet. The most cunning thing Satan ever did was to imitate the Gospel, and do it so closely, that many cannot detect it, can't tell the difference between the gospel of Satan, and the gospel of God. The devil is the smoothest counterfeiter the world has ever known. A counterfeit dollar has no value unless it resembles a genuine, and that so closely people cannot detect it, and it is so with Satan's counterfeit gospel, it must resemble the true, so closely that people will accept it.

And before Satan is through with his sham gospel, it will be so cunning that he will deceive the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) A good example of Satan's gospel is found in the great parable of the wheat and tares. (Matt. 13) The good seed was sown by the Son of God, but the tares were sown by the devil. Now notice, Satan did not sow thorns, or briars, among the wheat, he sowed tares, they look like wheat, and we have two kinds of people in the church, real sons of God, and shams, tares, counterfeits, and it's hard to tell them apart, but at the harvest we will know them. The ministers of the devil are not saloon keepers, nor white slave traffickers. Those are his slaves. Satan's ministers are ordained preachers of the gospel. He has "transformed his ministers into ministers of righteousness." The gospel of the devil is not evolution, war, anarchy, drunkenness, debauchery. His gospel he preaches is goodness, mercy, love of God, morals, temperance, brotherhood, peace and the world says all good men morally are saved men. Not so.

That is another of Satan's lies by which he is deceiving the whole world. Men and women don't have to do a lot of bad things to go to hell. Neither will good morals save us, good morals alone will disappoint a lot of people. The "new birth", regenerated new people in Christ Jesus can claim salvation. If morality, clean lives could save, why the death on the cross? Why the agonizing, bleeding of the precious Son of God, on the cross? Do not let Satan deceive you. "There is none good but one that is God." (Matt. 19:17)

Since the churches have been preaching character, goodness, prohibition and morality, they have stopped preaching the cross of Christ, shed blood, humility, walking with God. But Satan's gospel

is not only a gospel of reform, his ministers cast out demons, prophesy in Jesus' name, do many wonderful works, they come with open Bible, preaching the wonders of prophecy, quoting scripture. They "heal the sick, speak in tongues, do many wonderful works."

Not only does Satan have ministers, but he will produce apostles who will by counterfeit spirit, by the laying on of their unholy hands do wonders.

And before the devil is through, to complete his deception he will produce false Christs and false prophets, who will do marvelous things to deceive the elect if possible. And these things will be worked out so much like our Lord would do by divine power, it will be hard to distinguish them from the power of God.

Therefore, take heed to thyself, that we are not misled. The name of Jesus will not be left out of his deceptive work. It will be used to good advantage in his deception and prove to be a strong point, so many will claim Matthew 7:23, and say "Lord, Lord, we have done many things in thy name, but he will say, depart I never knew you."

Satan's objective is to break down the teaching of the cross. His teaching always leaves out the blood of Christ, and it is being more accepted. He will finally substitute the entire god-head. Take heed to thyself.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Must Not Swear

J. H. Moore

Under the Old Law, the Mosaic Dispensation, it was decreed: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." (Ex. 20:7) Or, in other words, "Thou shalt not indulge in profanity." Jesus expands this law, and makes it to include more than was ever dreamed of even by the devout prophets. Hear him: "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." (Matt. 5:33-37).

Here the whole story is told, even to the elimination of the civil oath. Instead of swearing or taking the oath, when called on to bear testimony before civil authorities, the Christian's answer is to be "Yea" or "Nay." He testifies to the truth of his statement in the

simplest possible way. He is to be a person of truth, and in this particular is to make a standing record for himself. His word should be taken for the truth, so far as he is able to testify, without being backed up by any kind of an oath.

At this point James (5:12) comes forward with a divinely-authorized statement that need not be misunderstood. We will hear him: "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." This includes everything in the form of an oath, — even the oaths of secret societies. Above all things, believers in Christ must not swear. The statement makes a clean sweep of every excuse that might be offered for the civil or any other kind of an oath. The Jewish law forbade profanity, but allowed the civil oath, while the teachings of Christ forbid both. It simply means a higher plane of living, and a higher order of service.

The civil government, recognizing the justice of the Christian's claim, in this particular, has provided that those who are conscientiously opposed to taking an oath may affirm to their statement. And since this answers every purpose of the law, and comes within the limits of what Jesus and James had said, regarding swearing, the Christian is at liberty, in all of our courts of justice, and before any civil officer, to obey this part of the Gospel.

OBITUARIES

BEULAH M. MARKS

Sister Beulah M. Marks was born June 18, 1917, near Glen Rock, York County, Pennsylvania, to the late Joseph and Minnie (Dubbs) Myers. She went to be with the Lord December 7, 1989 at the age of 72 years.

A life-long resident of the York, Pennsylvania area, she was united in marriage to Charles F. Marks for 54 years.

She is survived by her husband, Charles; a son, Raymond Marks, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Mary King, Chesapeake, Virginia; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; a sister, Stella Warner, York, Pennsylvania; five brothers, Norman Myers, York, Pennsylvania, Howard Myers, East Berlin, Pennsylvania, Millard Myers and Cletus Myers, both of Loganville, Pennsylvania, and Wilford Myers, Red Lion, Pennsylvania.

She served the Lord faithfully and was a member of Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church from her youth. Services were conducted at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church December 10 by Elders Virgil Leatherman, Frank Shaffer, and Jacob Ness. Burial was in the adjoining church cemetery.

The family thanks all, with sincere appreciation for the many prayers, visits, flowers, cards, and expressions of sympathy and love.

GOLDIE RICE

Sis. Goldie J. Rice was born February 13, 1897 and died November 29, 1989. She was a daughter of the late Joshua A. L. and Frances (Moser) Rice.

She is survived by one brother, Joshua A. L. Rice, Jr. and a number of nieces and nephews. She was a member of the Mt. Dale Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

Funeral services were conducted at Kuney and Basford Funeral Home, East Church, St. Frederick, Maryland by Elders Jacob Ness and Frank Shaffer, December 1, at 2:00 P.M. Interment was made in the Dunkard Brethren Cemetery, Mt. Dale, Maryland.

MARRIAGE

MUSSELMAN - UNGER

Sis. Lisa Marie Musselman, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Harold Musselman, and Stephen Larry Unger, were united in marriage on September 16, 1989 and are presently living at 154 Roberta Jean Apartments, Littlestown, Pennsylvania.

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed a full weekend October 27 and 28 with our lovefeast services Saturday afternoon and evening and dedication services Sunday afternoon. Our visiting ministers for Saturday afternoon examination service were our Elder Bro. Eugene Kauffman, Bro. Harley Flory, Bro. Edward Johnson, Bro. Fred Johnson, Bro. Ronald Marks, and Bro. Rudy Shaffer. Bro. Harley challenged us with the message of Hebrews 10:19 as well as officiating at the lovefeast tables in the evening.

The dedication services started Sunday afternoon with the congregation singing "To God Be The Glory." Bro. Edward Johnson delivered the dedication message. He spoke on II Chronicles 6... this is not just a dedicated building to look to but we are to be a dedicated people... this is the place we have chosen for God to meet with us to worship Him... God promised to meet us here in a house dedicated to worship... verse 20 "That thine eyes may be upon this house day and night"... verse 32 depends on our lives here at this place that the stranger going by will give glory and honor to God... Children aren't going to understand what it means

"where God dwells" unless they see God dwelling in mothers and fathers... Verse 40 "Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place." Bro. Jacob Ness closed with the dedication prayer.

At our December 16 council meeting, Bro. Jason Reed was installed in the ministry. The congregation also elected Bro. Richard Noecker, Bro. Dale Aungst and Bro. Paul Noecker, Jr. as deacons. Pray for these men, their wives and families and the congregation as it supports them.

We are looking forward to a spring revival meeting April 15 to April 22 with Bro. Jim Meyers as our evangelist. Oh! How we need revival! Oh! How we need to confess our sins to God, to each other, that we may bear one another's burdens and in so doing strengthen and encourage each other. Oh! How we need to eradicate sin out of our lives and be filled with the Spirit's power. Pray for these meetings. We invite you to worship the Lord with us.

Sister Grace Reed, Cor.

NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank each one that remembered me with cards, flowers and visits and above all the prayers during my recent illness and stay in the hospital. I cannot say in words how much they meant to me. I also received many letters of encouragement. May God bless each one.

Sister Almeda L. Strayer



Abraham Lincoln's doorkeeper had standing orders from him that no matter how great might be the throng, if either senators or representatives had to wait, or to be turned away without an audience, he might see, before the day closed, every messenger who came with a petition for the saving of life.

A man who had charge of a swing-bridge opened it just to oblige a friend, who said there was plenty of time for his boat to go through before the train of cars came along. But the moment after the express came thundering on, and dashed into the dark waters below. The bridgekeeper, whose neglect had caused the disaster, lost his reason, and his life since has been spent in a madhouse. The first and only words he uttered when the train leaped into the open chasm were, "If I only had;" and he has gone on constantly repeating the vain regret. Ah! that will be the cry of the lost in another world, — "If I only had."

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1990

March 4 - Works of the Flesh vs. Fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:16-26.

1. What is the key to victory over the flesh? verse 16 and 18.
2. How do we "Walk in the Spirit"?

March 11 - Do Good Unto All Men - Galatians 6:1-18.

1. What test of our spiritual maturity is found in verse one?
2. What are some ways we can "do good"?

March 18 - Chosen of God - Ephesians 1:1-11.

1. Who are the chosen of God?
2. Who are "accepted in the beloved"?

March 25 - Knowing the Hope of His Calling - Ephesians 1:12-23.

1. What is the "Hope of His Calling"?
2. Who reveals to us this hope?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1990

March 4 - Consecration - Phil. 3:1-8, Acts 20:23-24, Rom. 12:1-2, II Kings 23:3.

1. Define consecration as it applies to our Christian life.
2. What is God's formula in Romans 12:1-2?

March 11 - Does it Pay to Pray? - I Sam. 1:27, Matt. 5:5-7, Acts 4:31, Psalms 91:15.

1. What does the fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplish? Ja. 5:16.
2. Name some conditions or prerequisites to answered prayer.

March 18 - The Beatitudes - Matt. 5:1-12, Luke 6:20-23.

1. Define beatitude.
2. What is the promise for keeping them?

March 25 - GOD'S Ways - Ps. 18:30, Is. 55:8-9, Heb. 3:6, Rom. 11:33, Rev. 15:3.

1. How do we find and know God's ways?
2. What reward is promised for those who walk in God's ways? Matt. 7:14.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LOVE OF BRETHREN

How great the love of brethren.
Words simply can't express
Thy love, and joy, and beauty
Of their Christian happiness.

They share their joys and sorrows;
Their prayers for others flow.
They have a sweet communion
The world can never know.

Their love is like a circle
Of which there is no end.
And after they have been apart,
With joy, they meet again.

May this circle be unbroken
When Jesus comes again,
And saints rise to the skies --
With Him to ever reign.

Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

SHARING

One of the big events of a young schoolchild's life is the opportunity to share some event of interest. Young schoolchildren are encouraged to do this, not only so they will become more comfortable speaking before others, but also so they will learn to share with others.

The new calf, the new wagon or the new baby may not seem very important to others but the sharing of the event gives the sharer the chance to instruct and enthuse others. He becomes important for a brief moment and others may be helped by what is shared.

Children are also taught to share not only verbally but also materially. They are taught to share their lunch with the classmate who doesn't have one. They are taught to put their pennies in a collection for mission activities or other programs to help the unfortunate. The most effective means of teaching them to share is for them to see their parents share.

Children are encouraged to share their experiences and material means. Christians as the children of God also need to share. There are many ways that Christians can share.

The children of God have the wonderful privilege of sharing the gospel with others in various ways. The truth of the Gospel may be given to others through personal witness. That witness may be individual witnessing or it may be witnessing before a group. This witnessing shares what the Gospel means in a personal way as God has helped that individual through physical, material and Spiritual needs. The Gospel may be shared through teaching, whether through an organized class or in an informal way. The Gospel is shared through the ministry. By the proclamation of the

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Gospel, the unsaved or the weak may be brought to see the need of a response in their lives.

Sharing may not be just a public ministry. Sharing may happen through Christian friendship and fellowship. While the Christian will maintain good social relations with those he is in contact with, his primary friendships should be with fellow Christians. Because they share the common experience of the rebirth and the common experiences in worship and living they are able to understand and help one another. This sharing is especially illustrated in the Lovefeast service. There fellow believers are brought together through shared self-examination, feet-washing, a meal and the communion.

This sharing is a more or less public sharing. There is also a sharing that is more private. This sharing is between those who are close enough that they can share on a very personal level. Deepest emotions and passions as well as shortcomings and sins may be confessed and worked out. This kind of sharing demands a very high level of confidence and confidentiality. This sharing requires a wise counselor and one who is willing to bare himself. In some instances there may need to be a public confession of sin, which can be helpful to others as a warning to them. It can be beneficial to the one confessing as he clears the air. It is an occasion that requires wisdom and love so the sharing is profitable to all involved.

Another type of personal sharing is the sharing of needs. Christians often are reluctant to share their needs. They may feel that their faith has not been strong enough or in some way they have failed God because of their need. So they keep it a secret, forgetting that God may want them to share it so they might have the need met. The need might be a personal problem or a material problem. Just sharing the problem may help find the solution through explaining it. Other times the sharing will open up resources that were unavailable until a request was made. It may be difficult to share these needs because we fear others may think us poor managers. Sharing will break down our false pride, humble us and put us on a level common with others. The breaking down of our pride will allow others to help us. This will be an opportunity for them to fulfill their privilege of helping fellow believers.

Sharing does not mean incessant whining and complaining. Nor is sharing the same old story told over and over. Sharing is alive and drawing people together so they are both better able to serve God.

Sharing is important to the young child. It should be important to the child of God of whatever age. It may require a destruction of

false pride and a development of wisdom and discernment in the sharing of need and even of sin.

Jesus has given us the Law of Pardon in Matthew 18:15-17 with the intention we would use it. He wants us to share with one another. He wants us to be drawn closer together through our mutual needs and our mutual dependence upon Him.

Are you willing to share your faith, your wisdom, your love or even your shortcoming and frustrations? Are you willing, on whatever side of the problem you are on, to share — not only for your own benefit but also for the glory of God?

THE INVITATION TO COME

Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Just before the close of the Holy Scriptures there is one last invitation given to COME. Likewise, before you breathe your last breath of life you are given the invitation to COME. While the Holy Scriptures clearly teach that baptism is an essential part of our salvation experience, we should not be dogmatic in stating that it is impossible to reach Heaven without immersion baptism. However, to put off full obedience until "later" is a dangerous thing.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come." We cannot accept Christ any time we feel like it. It must be when the Spirit calls us. However, if we sincerely desire to be saved we have the assurance that He will call. When the Spirit calls an individual He will convict him of a need to repent of his sins and forsake the things of this world. Perhaps one of the reasons we have so many worldly church members in place of true born again Christians is because emotional entertainment and pleas have replaced relying on the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. You can draw huge crowds many times by using the things of this world and even get "commitments." But the Holy Spirit has only promised to work through the "foolishness of preaching."

The bride is the Church. Our major emphasis should be to call individuals to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Social work is a result of a change of heart and not to be confused with the invitation to COME. We rejoice in the fact that Communism is falling in many places and is being replaced with governments that will allow more freedom. (There is also a danger in this but that is not our subject at this time.) But political activism is not the work of the Church. The Church is to call, "COME to true freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ."

"And let him that heareth say, Come." It has been wisely said "sheep beget sheep." When the Lord Jesus Christ saves our soul and sets us free we are to share the invitation with others. We are in favor of holding revival meetings. But the sad truth is very few who really need a Savior will come to a church. While we are not in favor of "knocking on doors" we do believe there are ways of sharing with others. Many who will not talk about salvation will read a salvation message. We must be careful since many tracts include the unscriptural teaching of unconditional eternal security. But we believe tracts are a good means of sharing the Gospel. If God has given you the ability to write be sure to include an invitation in at least a major portion of your writings. In sharing it must always be kept in mind that it is the Holy Spirit's work to convict and convince. We can do more harm than good by trying to force an individual to make a decision. It is also not our job to assure an individual they are saved. We can give them the assurance that we can know that we are saved. But only they know if they have truly repented and received true peace in their heart.

"And let him that is athirst come." Are we enough salt to the world to make them thirsty? We realize that many will be turned off when we share the need of discipleship and we cannot compromise the need to count the cost. But if our attitudes and actions are a hinderance to sharing the Gospel we should desire a cleansing in our own lives. While this is primarily a salvation call, we believe all true believers should be thirsty for more of Christ or perhaps better said thirsty for Christ to have more of us. If our "thirst" is for more things this world can supply we will be weak christians.

"And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." This offer is for "whosoever will" not those "elected" or "predestined." While both of these terms are to be found in Holy Scripture they must be understood in light of "whosoever will." Christ makes no racial distinction. While no such skin color lines actually exist, the invitation is given to "red and yellow, black and white (and some include brown). Do we as a church open our doors to all that Christ accepts? If we are not willing to accept a brother or a sister of another color in our fellowship we had better do some soul searching. No one is "too good" or "too bad" for this invitation. According to Scripture the only ones left out are those who have blasphemed against the Holy Spirit and those mentioned in Hebrews 6:4-6 which may be one and the same. While the scriptures clearly teach a possibility of falling away and losing your salvation and being restored, we have often said you cannot play games with God.

If the Holy Spirit has spoken to your heart through this writing please accept His call to COME. The blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse all your sin and set you free.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch Street
Palmyra, PA 17078

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Evening Church Attendance

One of the most important parts of the Christian experience is worshipping God and fellowshiping with the Body in regular church attendance. We are living in an age when even conservative, Bible believing Christians attend worship services Sunday morning but seem to feel very little obligation to attend Sunday evening services. This is tragic, considering we are admonished in the Word to meet together as frequently as possible as we see the nearing of the end of the age. Why should we be in the meeting house on Sunday evenings and at other times when there are scheduled services? We would like to answer that question in this writing.

First of all, we collectively possess eternal life and anyone who is in fellowship with Jesus will also fellowship with others who worship Him. This is our common ground. We are ONE FAMILY and we desire to be together at every opportunity.

This special fellowship is known as KOINONIA in the Greek. It is having commonness, a partnership and togetherness. It is love and partnership with each other and with God. The gospel is literally preached because the Lord wants to draw us together and make us more at one with Jesus Christ. Many times lack of evening attendance might indicate a lack of desire for fellowship and spiritual growth. It forfeits an opportunity for additional joy because we are being obedient to God's principles and weakens us slightly for lacking in a full diet. The Lord has given food to the minister who feeds you in the morning but has also given food to the evening speaker. This might well be the desert to complete your feasting for the day.

Evening attendance creates additional unity among the brethren and sisters who attend. We need to develop very close relationships in the Lord today. The disunity in the Body of Christ often comes from those who fellowship least with the church. They "assume" many things because they have not had enough personal contact with other individuals to get to know them and the facts about their lives and particular problems. We get more "on fire" for the Lord the more we are together. If you take embers from a

fireplace and separate them and put them off to the edge by themselves, they will go out. But you can scrape these same embers together and they will begin to glow and will flame once again. Together they become full of energy but alone they die.

Being together more frequently helps us to minister with our spiritual gift. We serve each other in fellowship. We allow someone else to more fully develop in their spirituality by having in-put into their life.

Full church attendance gives us the opportunity to "Confess our faults one to another." We begin to understand that we are all on the same ground... that we all have challenges and can show them more because we get to understand each other better. This also leads us to the opportunity to forgive one another more fully because of the special feelings we develop for others.

And by no means of lesser importance is the additional opportunity we gain to uphold one another. We can better help the weak and help them carry their burdens.

I have often wondered if there was a concert offered at the church in the evening if everyone would attend to be entertained. The world uses a lot of gimmicks like that today. We are living in the midst of a society that doesn't know the meaning of commitment... and we might well be following in their footsteps. God wants us to build the church and we can't build a church on entertainment, coddling or other carnal offerings. We should be attending "for the perfecting of the saints." God's pattern cannot be altered. He desires our attendance and requires it.

If we are going to be moving on to perfection, we are going to accept the challenge to be in church every morning and every evening service. As we develop that as the pattern for each Lord's Day, we will enjoy our worship more and more and will feel contentment in abiding in the will of the Lord for our lives.

One final statement. If you do not attend, the doors of your church might well close on Sunday night. What a tragedy... just because of a lack of commitment to the purpose of the church... the church house becomes dark. Worship in the church at every opportunity... morning and evening.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1930

THE PATH OF LIFE

Pearl Miller

There are a great number of paths about us. Some lead one direction and others in another direction, and each one leads to a different goal.

These are temporal paths: but there is a spiritual path. Each one of us is traveling somewhere upon this path. We are not there by our own choice, for we had nothing to do with our being here. But nevertheless each of us is found either at the beginning, or the middle, or the end of this path.

We enter upon this path at infancy and travel upon it but a few short years, until there comes a dividing point. At this point we begin to have a knowledge of good and evil. We call it the years of accountability. We cannot stand and loiter for the wheels of time move on rapidly.

Christ, very clearly, described to us, the nature of the two paths which lead forward from this dividing point. The one guides us through a wide gate into a broad path which leads to destruction. The other leads us through a straight gate into a narrow path and finally into life eternal. Matt. 7:13-14.

Each individual may choose his own path. If the broad way looks brightest we may travel that way but in case the narrow way seems best we have the privilege of going that way. We take it for granted that for a greater part, the readers of this article have chosen the latter course.

However, after we have made this choice, we too often forget that a great record is being kept by a just God. We too often forget that a great balance is held in the hands of the Almighty to weigh up the good and evil deeds.

Day by day, hour by hour, and moment by moment, we pass along. Each moment a thought, word, or deed, is hung upon one side or the other of the great balance. It not only is hung upon the balance but the foot print is left in the path. It might be the cause of the loss of some soul or it may be the means of eternal salvation to one who walks the same pathway.

No one can travel this path alone, for two spirits are continually striving to join us. Satan, the evil one, wishes us to make a foot print outside the narrow way and Christ entreats us to remain with Him so he can help us.

As long as our eyes and hearts are looking upward to Jesus we are apt to win: but as quickly as we allow ourselves to look downward to the earth and the things therein, there is a possibility of eternal damnation.

There are multitudes of sins into which the evil one tries to trap us. But according to the third chapter of James there is one which has been set on fire from Hell itself and that is the sins of the tongue.

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so." James 3:10.

We hear much said about criminals and murderers, but let us be careful that we do not murder our fellow man with our tongue. For the curses we utter against our brother may outweigh the blessings we give to God and at the end of the pathway the God of us all may utter these words: "Thou are weighed in the balance and found wanting."

There is much bad in the best of us,
And so much good in the worst of us,
That it hardly behooves any of us,
To talk about the rest of us.

THE LORD WILL JUDGE

Let us be very careful whom we judge. Let us not set ourselves as a model above others of like precious faith. Let us not feel self-righteous, because we too can fall. There is no one who lives a blameless life, we know sin has touched each of our lives.

God is the only Judge. He never has appointed or assigned any one to be the judge. Our Blessed Lord is the only one who can see the heart, and He alone will do the judging, when our life here has come to a close.

Dear ones, instead of judging someone let us look for the good in that life, and add joy to help make their burdens lighter. The seed of kindness will help more than words can say. No one knows about tomorrow, its joy or pain. We know that yesterday is gone forever, we must live for today. Let us live it prayerfully. What we do today will either help or hinder Christ's work. It will either go forward and many will be won so they too can enjoy living for Him. We should live each day for the Lord so others will see the joy of a Christian life and living close to the Master. Start each day with a smile and a call to the sick or discouraged ones, trying to bring a little cheer into their lives so they can see the joy we have in serving the Man of Galilee. Help us to see the need in others, dear ones, the broken hearted and weary ones. Let us try to draw others so they follow in His footsteps is my prayer.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTINES

GOING TO LAW

J. H. Moore

In his letter to Timothy, Paul says: "We know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully". (I Tim. 1:8). In a broad sense, this may apply to civil law, as well as to the law of Moses, but it is the misuse of the law, the courts of litigation, that we wish to consider at this time.

It is however, in I Cor. 6:1-7, that we have specific instructions regarding those of the same faith going to law one with another, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?" Then he adds: "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another." Then notice his sharp rebuke: "Nay, ye do wrong."

And so it is. Brethren who go to law with one another do wrong. They sin because they violate the very plain teaching of the Gospel. Paul reasons this way: "Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? No, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?" The apostle would have the members settle their differences among themselves, and under no circumstances would he permit them to appear against each other in the courts.

But this matter, in the way of instructions, may go even further than members of the same body appealing to the civil courts. Within the limits of reason, it should have a restraining influence with those who would enter suits against their neighbors, and those who are not members of the church. Few things in neighborhoods and in large communities have given rise to more ill feelings and persistent hatred than bitter lawsuits between neighbors. Many of these suits have been over trifles, and in the years of litigation fortunes have been consumed. The Brethren, as a people, believe that the spirit of the Gospel is decidedly opposed to the followers of Christ taking to the courts, complaints against nonmembers, that may possibly be settled in a better way. They believe that members of the body of Christ should not be hasty about attempting to secure justice at the civil tribunals. Paul would say to them: "Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded" (I Cor. 6:7)? Members will therefore do well to counsel their own brethren before entering suit against even nonmembers. By counseling others, ways may be found to avoid litigation, and thus protect the reputation of the church, as well as the parties themselves.

OBITUARIES

ROSELLA KASZA

Sis. Rosella Pearl Kasza, daughter of Joseph and Rhoda (Finkenbinder) Wertz, was born at Friend, Scott County, Kansas, September 15, 1902. She passed away December 20, 1989, at the Weisbrod Nursing Home, Eads, Colorado. She lived to be 87 years, 3 months, and 5 days.

She received her education in school at Friend, Kansas, and Bent County High School in Las Animas, Colorado. At the age of

fourteen, she accepted Christ as her Saviour, and was baptized into the Church of the Brethren in the county of her birth. She moved with her parents to the Lubers Community, west of McClave in Bent County, Colorado, in April, 1919. She became a charter member of the Cloverleaf Dunkard Brethren Church when it was organized in 1929.

On January 15, 1925, she was united in marriage to Joseph Kasza, Jr. at McClave, Colorado. To this union three children were born: Willard, McClave, Colorado; Ruth Pearl Mahaloczki, Nyssa, Oregon; and Eugene, Malta Bend, Missouri.

After the death of her husband in 1943, she continued to farm for many years. Upon leaving the farm, she moved to McClave. Shortly thereafter she went to work as the school lunch cook. She retired from there at the age of sixty-five.

Survivors include her children, ten grandchildren, and twenty-one great-grandchildren, two brothers, Emery and Richard Wertz, McClave, Colorado and two sisters, Etta Lefholz, McClave, Colorado and Minnie Haldeman, Dallas Center, Iowa. She was preceeded in death by her husband, parents, and one sister.

Services were held in the Cloverleaf Dunkard Brethren Church, December 23, 1989, with Elder Dale Jamison and Bro. Leonard Wertz, Quinter, Kansas officiating. Musical selections, "Going Down the Valley" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", were sung by the congregation.

Casket bearers were grandsons Larry Kasza, Joe Kasza, Bruce Kasza, Kevin Funk, Tim Kasza and Russell Kasza. Concluding services were in the McClave Cemetery with Griffy and Horber Funeral Chapel handling arrangements.

Mother, or Grandma, as she was known to all her family gave to each and everyone her full love and devotion. She received total and complete satisfaction with the arrival and achievement of each member as the family increased during the years. Grandma Kasza was a very quiet and reserved lady with only fine thoughts and good things to say about her grandchildren. She was most proud of all her beautiful and talented granddaughters and her grandsons for their ambitions and careers. She is especially proud of her great grandchildren. Not only was she a lady, mother, and grandmother, but a good "ask-for-more" cook. She will long be remembered by her family and friends.

LOUISE SINES

Sister Louise Sines was born August 29, 1948 in Grafton, West Virginia and departed this life November 29, 1989 by an accident on the family sawmill. She was 41 years and 3 months.

She was a faithful member of the Swallow Falls Congregation for several years where she willingly lived by the standards of the Bible and the doctrine of the church. She always had a set of willing hands to help others and she loved to cook and work in her garden. She had donated her time as a full-time teacher for over four years in the church school.

She was the daughter of Orval and the late Betty (Robinson) Williams. In addition to her father she is survived by her foster mother, Mrs. Ada Wilson, Thornton, West Virginia; her husband, Bro. Ross; her daughter, Sister Rebecca and her son, Bro. John, both at home. She had four sisters: Mrs. Linda Stevens, Thornton, West Virginia; Mrs. Katheryn Bunner, Hampton, Virginia; Mrs. Susanne Schultz, Lorain, Ohio; and Miss Sharon Williams, Hampton, Virginia. She also had four brothers: Mr. William Watkins, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mr. Eugene Williams, Elkridge, Maryland; Mr. Walter Williams, Swanton, Maryland; and Mr. Willie Williams, Swanton, Maryland.

Funeral services were conducted at the Swallow Falls Dunkard Brethren Church on Sunday, December 3 with Elder Virgil Leatherman opening and Elder Paul Hartz having the message. Elder Frank Shaffer had the committal.

The family wishes to express their thanks to all who remembered us with cards, notes and prayers during this time of bereavement. We also solicit your further prayers on our behalf.

The family

CLIFTON SWEITZER

Bro. Clifton Norman Sweitzer was born February 17, 1919 in Springfield Township, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania and departed this life November 21, 1989. He was the son of the late Kurvin and Alice E. (Bortner) Sweitzer. He was 70 years, 9 months and 4 days.

He was the husband of Valeria A. (Stump) Sweitzer. They would have celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on December 2, 1989. He retired from A. C. Reider and Son in 1984 after working thirty-two years as a well driller. He was also engaged in farming until his death. He loved gladiolus and daily brought a bouquet to the kitchen for his loving wife.

Bro. Sweitzer was baptized in the Church of the Brethren and later transferred membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church at Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania where he was a member at the time of his death.

He was a volunteer for the Red Lion Area Ambulance Association and was a part-time employee of Rutter's Family Restaurant.

In addition to his wife he is survived by three sons: James L. of Yoe, Pennsylvania, George A. of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and

Merle E. of Red Lion, Pennsylvania; six daughters: Pauline J. Warner of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, Alice M. Keeny of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, Grace A. Blocher of Red Lion, Pennsylvania; Beatrice S. at home, Joann K. Thompkins, of Red Lion, Pennsylvania and Mabel L. Chupp of Dallas Center, Iowa; twenty-four grandchildren, one great-grandchild. Also two brothers: Walter A. of Red Lion, Pennsylvania and Kurvin of York, Pennsylvania and one sister, Goldie R. Godfrey of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Betty Jane.

Bro. Clifton was a friend to anyone he saw. He will be greatly missed by everyone and especially his family.

Funeral services were conducted at the Dunkard Brethren Church, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania on Friday, November 24, 1989, with Elder Jacob Ness opening, Elder David Kegerreis having the message with his text from Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest..." Elder Frank Shaffer conducted the graveside services.

The family wishes to express their thanks to all who remembered us with cards, gifts and prayers during this time of loss and bereavement.

Sister Valeria A. Sweitzer and family

SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
All's so happy, all's so bright!
There's perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief are over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly
Trode the Valley of the Shade?
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's will.

There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idle stand;
Do your work while life remaineth --
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you home;
Oh, the rapture of the meeting!
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Selected by the family

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

Everyone is urged to worship with us at Quinter, Kansas at our Spring Lovefeast. We will begin with an evening preaching service, Friday, March 16, followed by all day services Saturday and Sunday.

Come if you can, and let's Praise the Lord together.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

You are invited to come and enjoy a time of fellowship and reviving with us. We are looking forward to having Bro. Dennis St. John from Pleasant Ridge, Ohio to bring forth God's Word. The meetings will begin March 25 and end April 1.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation invites each of you to our Spring Lovefeast, April 7 and 8 with District Meeting to follow on Monday, April 9.

Services begin at 10:45 Saturday morning with the Lovefeast Service that evening. Come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

We are in winter now. Nothing special. Just wanted to say "God bless you all, brethren, sisters and friends.

We did have an encouraging revival in August with Bro. Berton Smith of Topeka, Indiana as our evangelist. We enjoyed Bro. Smith's gospel messages, also Sis. Smith's visit with us. We had a small, but spirited Lovefeast which was uplifting. We also appreciated our Elder Bro. and Sis. Virgil Leatherman and other

visiting brethren, sisters and friends who visited with us during the revival. No new converts or members were added to our number. We have Bible Study each Sunday except fifth Sundays. We appreciate the visitors who drop in from time to time, and also for the ministers who come to preach for us. Since we are few in number they are especially encouraging to us. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

However, one item of news we are sad to relate that of Sis. Louise Sines' sudden calling home to glory. Her passing was a sad blow to all of us. We appreciate your prayers, cards, letters and telephone calls of encouragement.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.



THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone for all the cards and prayers in my behalf as I go through my illness.

God bless you all!

Brother Paul Blocher

NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank all for your prayers, cards, flowers, and deeds of kindness after my surgery and while recuperating.

I thank God for the healing of my body. The therapy I am now taking is quite painful at times but I am doing well.

May God bless you for your love and concern.

In Christian love,
Brother Marty Meyers

THANK YOU

Thank you my dear friends for your prayers, greeting cards, letters, telephone calls, daily care and everything that came my way for encouragement since my automobile accident November 5. All these things are thoughtful blessings from the Lord and does much to defeat Satan, and his forces, who is the author of discouragement and defeat. The Lord will bless every act of kindness, even a glass of water given in His name as the Bible says. Each little kindness we do for another He will bless us for it. I am now able to ride along with my family to church services. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHY NOT BE A HELPER?

There's many a soul will perish,
For want of friendly aid,
Whom Jesus had died to ransom;
Their full redemption paid!

The Master hath need of helpers,
He calls for you today;
Then answer the summons gladly,
Thy service he'll repay.
Then rescue a soul for Jesus,
If only one soul it be;
'Twill bring thee a hallowed pleasure
To all eternity!

If only a cup of water
Be given in Jesus' name
To one who is faint and weary,
It shall not be in vain.

Remember, the greatest valor
Not only claims renown,
But lowliest deeds of kindness
Will gem thy glory crown!

- J. Wesley Hughes

TEAMWORK

We each bear responsibility for our own Spiritual well-being. We also have a responsibility for the growth and well-being of our fellow believers. We have a responsibility towards those who are not believers that they might be able to overcome the lack of teaching, indifference or prejudice, so they too may have Spiritual life. We cannot fulfill all of these responsibilities fully by ourselves, so we must work together to accomplish these tasks.

By each doing what he is best able to do, the task can be completed. No matter how talented he may be, no one has all the talents necessary to do everything. Even the man with five talents had room to grow or else he would not have had his talents doubled. It is evident that some have more talents than others but even they need the help that the less talented can supply. No one has the right to look down upon the lesser abilities of others, for those very abilities may be the ones he lacks and stands in need of.

God has designed His Church to be a team. Sometimes we see teams that do not work as they should. We see sports teams, which have many talented players but because they do not work together, are unable to win. In business and industry we see failure because there is a lack of co-operation between workers in a certain section and we see animosity between labor and management. Unfortunately we see the same lack of teamwork in families, as fathers, mothers and children become involved in their separate interests. We see husbands and wives, who should be the closest team of all, failing to act as a team. This is especially true if there is no common Spiritual ground.

God created the human body. It remains a marvel in engineering that amazes and mystifies scientists and engineers. The body is

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composed of many interdependent organs and systems, each having a function to perform. When a diseased or injured organ must be removed, the rest of the body can partially perform that task by adaptation. For the body to fully perform as it was designed to, all parts must function at their highest level. This is teamwork in the human body.

The Apostle Paul uses the physical body as an illustration of the teamwork needed among God's people. The Church needs each member just as the body needs each organ. When a member is set aside the rest of the Spiritual body must try to compensate for its loss. Each member is important although all cannot have a leadership role, just as some of the smallest and weakest parts of the body are most necessary. It behooves each member to keep himself functional so he can serve the total body. If through disinterest or disobedience he is unable to function, he can become harmful to the body. Diseased organs need to be removed from the body so they do not harm the body. It is not easy to have that organ removed, for its function within the body will be affected, but before it ruins the whole body it must be done. The member is responsible to keep himself in Spiritual fitness for the body's good and the body as a team is responsible to the individual member to provide the compassion, love, discipline, and instruction that is needed to keep that member Spiritually healthy.

God also has provided a teamwork concept in the relationship between Him and each believer. The Apostle Paul wished ardently to be rid of the "thorn in the flesh" that troubled him. He probably reasoned that if God would remove this impediment from his life, he would be able to serve God more effectively. His desire was commendable and he persisted in his prayer but it was denied. God's answer was that He could best exhibit His strength through Paul's weakness. If Paul had been whole he might have been prone to take the credit for his accomplishments but realizing his own weakness and God's provision of strength, he would be able to glorify God.

Each member can have this teamwork with God. We have only to realize our own weakness and seek God's strength to compensate for it. In His strength we will be able to accomplish the tasks He has for each of us. Some will have a public field of service while others will serve in more obscure ways. Some may preach or teach publicly while others will give and pray in secret. All members with their talents are important to the total functioning of the body.

The body of believers is important for it is the Body and the Bride of Christ. It is this Body that He is coming to claim for Himself and will be at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. It is our responsibility, in teamwork with God and our fellow believers, to prepare ourselves and to help others to prepare themselves for that wonderful feast.

Are you part of the team?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MEDITATION

Psalms 104:34 says, "MY MEDITATION OF HIM SHALL BE SWEET: I WILL BE GLAD IN THE LORD."

We live in the "fastest" age in history. I am not just talking about fast travel... or morality... but life in general is lived in the fast lane and patience and quietness are virtues that are almost non-existent in many people's lives. We are taught in the Word, "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth." We call on God and before He can answer the phone, we run and continue our hectic pace of life.

The secret to answered prayer is often found in the quietness of being in the presence of God in meditation. It is concentrating on our thoughts and working through our problems as God speaks to us in a still small voice. It takes time and willingness to do this.

If your Christian life seems incomplete it could be that you are not willingly devoting the time necessary to sense God's will in giving you direction. Meditation might well be as important as prayer itself. Otherwise you have only a one sided communication and that is never worthwhile.

Meditation cannot be just an intellectual process. It has to involve your inner self, your emotions and feelings. David lived at a time when people of that agrarian culture worked hard and had little time for recreation. Yet, we see him saying, "My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord." David was probably taught the concept of meditation and it became a natural part of his life. In our age, I wonder if parents even discuss this dimension with youth. It is Biblical, it is necessary, but it is misunderstood and we are fearful that it might in some way be related to Transcendental Meditation. Certainly Transcendental Meditation is wrong but there are many differences between it and spiritual meditation. With Transcendental Meditation, you empty your mind so that it can be filled. With Christian meditation, you fill your mind with a "Christ focus" and thus shut out the outside environment so you can totally commune with the Lord. Meditation is concentrating with all your being on the spiritual rather than letting your mind run free.

David meditated alone in the hills and Isaac went to the fields in the evening to meditate. This indicates to us that we need a quiet place that is free from distractions and the world's input. We need to feel not pressed and to be relaxed... yet alert. Obviously, relaxed is not sitting in your favorite easy chair and nodding off now and then!

Then there has to be determined thought on a topic or topics that you desire to meditate on. This might be a scripture or a thought

such as love, peace, joy, and so forth. It might be on a need or on praise.

There must be patience in meditation. As the Spirit of God works within you, you need to allow His direction to come "in His time." Don't run ahead of the Lord. Remember, you are not meditating to establish your desire... you are meditating to extend your prayer life and to allow God to work HIS way with your thoughts and your will. There are probably times when you must just leave your mind open and ask God to fill it with His ideas and allow Him to give you more spiritual discipline.

With consistent meditation, you will see change in your life. There will be transformation to greater heights of the Christian experience. It will provide growth in your character and other qualities that come from deep down in your being. You will find God! "He who dwells in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the almighty." You will be better able to determine where you are going in life rather than giving in to the pressures of this society. You will find there power to defeat weakness and, finally, just the discipline of the practice will move you toward a more Christ-like life.

Brother Len Wertz

HONESTY

We read in Romans 12:17, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

Webster defines honesty as: honorable, upright, truthful, free from fraud. Righteousness means acting in a just and upright manner, virtuous, morally right, justifiable. Honesty and truth are included in righteousness.

The Bible is the world's greatest book. It contains full instructions on how to live acceptably before God in this life and promises Life Eternal when this natural life comes to a close. The Bible is unique. It is made up through the cooperative efforts of forty independent authors, representing twenty different occupations, living in ten different countries during the span of fifteen hundred years. They worked using three languages, with a cast of two thousand nine hundred and thirty characters in fifteen hundred fifty one different locations. This massive volume covers every conceivable subject. It is expressed in many forms such as prose, poetry, romance, mystery, biography, science, history, astronomy, and so forth. The various authors included kings, statesmen, fisherman, priests, seers, farmers, a physician, a tax collector, a tent maker, a missionary and so forth. How did they get all this information together, being separated by miles and years of time?

The Apostle Paul gives the answer in II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Daniel Webster said, "The Bible is a book of truth, a book of doctrine, a book of religion, a book of special revelation from God." David Esvert, a conservative Bible scholar stated, "Not only did God's Spirit inspire the writers of the sixty-six books that comprise the Bible, but God also superintended the transmission of these writings and their collection." We know it was authored by God. Another proof that God is the author, a researcher counted over thirty-eight hundred times where the writings of the Scriptures used some variant of the formula, "The Word of the Lord came unto me, saying." One example, "And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying..."

One of the many teachings in the Bible is to be HONEST. Romans 13:13, "Let us walk honestly,..."

Years back, a Christian's name was as good as his note. That is exactly the way it should be, BUT IS NOT. Today America boasts of its many new, modern and large Churches. Statistics report more people professing Christianity in America than ever before.

At the same time there are more rapes, auto thefts, murders and many other crimes committed in these United States. In many localities, people, especially women are afraid to go outside their home after night. No longer is it safe to leave our doors unlocked. Keys left in unattended automobiles are unadvisable. Times have changed tremendously, and not for good, in spite of claiming more Christianity.

Occasionally you read in the papers where someone found a sizable amount of money. They may be tempted to keep it, but being honest they strive to find the owner, often turning the money over to the police. The general public's reaction to the honesty of the finder is ridiculous. Many think the finder foolish for not keeping quiet and keeping the money. That would be entirely dishonest.

We cannot truthfully say we are living in an honest world. By reading newspapers and over the radio news we get a very troubling impression. Recently a National magazine in bold type, screamed "Lying in America" and went into detail how our citizenry are living untruthful lives. A few excerpts from that article will indicate lying conditions in our nation. Thirty in one hundred retail workers admit to stealing from a previous employer. Twenty-five in one hundred admitted to cheating on their income tax. Eighteen in one hundred admit to padding their expense accounts. Thirty-three in one hundred — one third — of hotel and motel guests steal towels, sheets, television sets, silverware, and so forth. Sixty-two

in one hundred students admit to cheating on school tests. This was so reported as the results of a poll taken, wherein each person's identity was not made known. The above is only a part of the moral sickness in our land. Old time honesty is out of fashion today.

The Holy Bible definitely points out that there is a code of ethics applying to all people all of the time under all circumstances. For example, the ten commandments forbid stealing, which is being dishonest with someone else's possessions. They forbid adultery which is stealing another's husband or wife. That is dishonesty to our marriage relationships. The ten commandments forbid coveting. To covet is to have the desire to be dishonest with what belongs to someone else.

Statistics gathered by pollsters would indicate that at least fifty percent of Americans, at times, are dishonest in one way or another. The common saying, "Honesty is the best policy" is as true today as it ever was.

Why are there so many of the young and rising generation living a dishonest life? For one reason, they try to duplicate what they see on television and read in the papers and paperback books. Another reason is the crowd they run with. There is always the daring ones and none of the others want to be called "Chicken."

In Ephesians 4:25 we read, "Wherefore putting away living, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." A white lie is just as black in God's sight as a black lie. The ragged truth is always better than the best dressed lie. In Ephesians 4:28 we read, "Let him that stole steal no more..." In Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."

What solution does the scripture give to overcome the sins and evils sweeping our nation? Ask God to help change the desires of your heart. Ask Him to renew a right spirit within you. Then spend time in serious study of the scriptures and apply them to your life.

Do not spend time meditating, in thinking, about the sins and what the world calls having a good time. Spend your time and effort to live a clean life for Jesus.

In Philippians 4:8, the Apostle Paul gives us a list of things to profitably occupy our minds. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are TRUE, whatsoever things are HONEST, whatsoever things are JUST, whatsoever things are PURE, whatsoever things are LOVELY, whatsoever things are of GOOD REPORT: if there be any VIRTUE, and if there be any PRAISE, THINK ON THESE GOOD THINGS.

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“SHOULD” and “OUGHT”

Periodically I look over the things I have written to see what has been gained as well as what I have missed. There is a great blessing to be had in declaring the goodness of God by way of the printed page. One thing I have noticed in what I have written is the repeated use of the words “should” and “ought.” Most of my past articles have contained these words. To indicate that something ought to be done, or that something should be done shows that we have an obligation to do it, but that it doesn’t always get done. We are expected to carry out the duty. It is the logical consequences of a previous act. For instance, since Christ loved us so much that He died for us, the logical consequence follows that we would be willing to give our lives likewise for His cause. Again, if Christ loved us, then we ought to love one another. This is not salvation by works, but only a logical consequence of Christ’s love for us. Our works do not save us, but trusting in the works of Jesus does. When we ought to do a thing, then we should know why we are doing it. Do not tell others that the church expects it. That is an insufficient reason. Tell them the Biblical reason for the way you conduct yourself. There is much more to a prayer veil than the reasons young sisters often give. We should know why we do these things.

One time several years ago an older man was converted. He wanted to fully embrace the teachings of the church. When asked to give up his wrist watch he removed it and said, “Anything for Jesus!” What a blessed attitude! Is it not wonderful to live so as to please the Lord in all our affairs? There is a real blessing in living this way. It is also wonderful when we can respond positively when we are asked by the church to give up a thing, or to embrace a certain teaching. If our hearts have truly been changed during the conversion experience it will be our desire to do the commandments of the Lord, and we will not need coaxing.

I want all readers of the BIBLE MONITOR to know that we appreciate all the comments received concerning our writing. They have mostly been positive. If you have any comments at all, whether good or bad, do not hesitate to contact us. May God’s richest blessings be yours.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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THE “JUST” ABORTION THEORY

John 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

I Corinthians 3:19-20, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

The wisdom of man has spawned many theories. These theories are usually connected with the questions "why?" and "what if?". Since we are all flesh it is next to impossible to see the spiritual truths in all their brightness. There are also spiritual truths that we will never understand because of our finite minds. While it is difficult to do so, there are some things taught in scripture that we have to accept by faith and let it go at that.

The "just war" theory has been argued for many years. However, even among the "just war" proponents there is disagreement as to what makes a war just. In the final analysis any war fought by the country they are a part of becomes a "just war" in most instances. The only just wars in recorded history were those commanded by God in the Old Testament. Here is where the wisdom of man enters into the picture. Since God never changes, our wisdom says that there must be such a thing as a "just war" in our day. However, we could give pages of scripture to show that God did not command the New Testament Saints to go to war and in fact forbade it. One of the arguments used to support "just wars" is that Christ never commanded those He came in contact with who were in the military to leave it. While we cannot be dogmatic about it, we believe the same thing may hold true for those who have salvation experience today who are already in the military. It may very well be that Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, would give them the same instructions given by John the Baptist in Luke 3:14. "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."

Along with the "just war" theory there are those opposed to war who argue a "just terrorism" theory. According to them violence is not wrong if it involves someone trying to gain their "right" to equal political and social standards. This is just more of the wisdom of man. The fact that many former non-resistent, peace churches now embrace this theory is a sad reality.

Now, we have those who have come up with a "just abortion" theory. We cannot answer all of their "what if?" questions any more than we can answer the "what if?" questions posed by the "just war" and "just terrorism" advocates. Beyond the "just war" theory we cannot give justification for using violence in a personal situation, then deny an individual the "right" to fight to protect his country against perhaps even greater evils. We have to take an absolute stand against any type of violence to be consistent. The

same holds true on the subject of abortion. One "exception" immediately comes to mind. What if the mother's life is in danger? We have no absolute answer to this anymore than we have an absolute solution for the individual who is born again while serving in the military. However, if the military man decides to stay and fulfill his commitment this does not change the fact that war is wrong for the Christian and that we should not serve in the military. Likewise a decision to abort a child to save the life of a mother, especially if chances of the child to survive are small in the first place, does not change the fact that abortion is murder. To argue that it would be wrong to force an individual who has been raped or is the victim of incest to carry a child full term is humanistic thinking. In the first place you cannot force an individual to do what they are determined not to do. We must teach our children that we must sometimes suffer for what is right. The Church must take a bold stand, when the general population refuses to do so.

Our flesh may tell us that we are good within ourselves, that we have no need of a real born again experience. But no matter how moral you may see yourself to be, it will not allow you to enter the glories of Heaven. Only salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ as evidenced by immersion baptism can assure you a home in Heaven. (Those who have not experienced immersion baptism we leave in the hands of a Holy God.)

May we allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide and the Holy Scriptures our pathway. Let us avoid the wisdom of man and questions that bring doubt.

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1930

CO-WORKERS

B. E. Kesler

Jesus planned in the great work of spreading the gospel and soul saving, that all may share in the work and in the reward that shall come to the faithful for service rendered.

On a certain occasion he said to his disciples, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathered fruit unto eternal life; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

He had now been schooling them for several months, preparing them for the great work soon to be committed to them, and to

arouse their interest in the work he said, "Life up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." He referred to the host of people that were coming out of the city at the request of the Samaritan woman, who had said, "Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did."

With their interest thus aroused, he said, "I sent (send) you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor; other men labored, and ye are entered (enter) into their labors." In other words, "I am sending you into a field, or fields, that are white already to harvest." Others have sown the seed, it has grown, and is now ready to harvest, and when you reap you will receive wages, the same as the sowers, and at the end both shall rejoice together, for both have shared in the work, they in their way and you in yours. They and you are co-workers in the same field of service, one in one capacity, the other in another, and either without the other cannot do the work.

In the study of human nature individually, different types of character and temperament are to be found. Here is an individual of a logical turn of mind. He must be convinced, if reached at all, by plain facts, well grounded and established by the truth. Sensation and emotion do not appeal to him. Here is another, of a sensational temperament. He pays little attention to what the preacher or even the Bible says. It's demonstration, dramatism, that appeals to him. Excitement and lip service appeal to him as nothing else will.

Then too, here is another person of a sympathetic, impressionable, disposition. He is easily moved to tears, by appeals to the emotional side of his nature. Solid facts and sensation mean little to him.

Besides these prominent characteristics many others are to be found in which there is a blending of two or more of these.

Now, since we have these different temperaments in the pew, we need them in the pulpit.

In apostolic times, a Paul who could "reason of temperance, righteousness and a judgment to come," and appeal to the reasoning faculties and say to a king, "Why should it be thought incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?"

An impetuous Peter was needed, who in a pitch of excitement could say to frightened inquirers, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins," or to silence inquisitive Jewish brethren, "Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?"

Then, too, the apostolic band of preachers would have been incomplete without the "beloved" John with his undoubted

assurance, "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ the righteous" and, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son," and "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us."

So, today, we need these different types of preachers to reach these different types of people. This is, perhaps, most effectively accomplished through the "plurality" of preachers in the same congregation. It may be done by the itinerary system, one minister at a time, for the congregation, to be succeeded by another ever so often.

Among these different types of ministers are to be found, the seed sowers, men mighty in the scriptures, men who "preach the word," who "shun not to declare the whole counsel of God." Men who emphasize "observation of all things whatsoever" Christ commanded. These men are good sowers, but rarely good reapers. But the souls they reach are moved by plain truth of the Bible, and usually are good "stickers," and are not easily "carried about by every wind of doctrine, and are the real pillars" in the church, not afraid, not ashamed to let the world know where they stand and why.

Another type of preacher is the dramatic sensational fellow. He is loud, noisy, often dramatic and clownish. He charges the fort with a fusillade of irony, sarcasm, denunciation, slang and ridicule and takes the camp by storming, stamping and excitement. And when he is gone, what little religion, if any, his converts had, goes with him. The heavenly gale passes away, and then become chilled by the blast. This type of men never makes good pastors. Their work is built on the sand and cannot stand when "persecution and tribulation because of the word arises."

Another type is the saint John style. These men are loved because of the magnetism they possess, and unseen force or power by which souls are drawn together, heart to heart. They are sympathetic, and emotional, and loving; other forces by which they captivate the hearts of the people and win them to Christ. These along with the first named above make good pastors and shepherds, but of opposite types.

The one great truth contained in the scriptures at the head of this editorial is that each will be rewarded according to his labors, and when the time of reckoning comes each will be full of joy unspeakable and full of glory. "Both he that soweth and he that reapeth will rejoice together."

So that if it is our lot to be a sower, let us do it faithfully, being assured we'll be just as happy, when "the faithful are rewarded," as the one who does the reaping. We'll not gather as many sheaves as the other, but he could not reap had we not sown the seed.

If we are reapers, let us be careful the harvest is ripe before we garner the sheaves. Persons may float with the current, or stampeded, or persuaded into the church without regeneration, in which case they are still born; or bastards and are in worse condition than before. For "except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven."

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE

THE ANOINTING SERVICE

J. H. Moore

In James 5:14-15 we have these instructions regarding the anointing service: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

It will be noticed that this service is to be performed by the elders of the church, and that it is intended for members only. James says: "Is any sick among you?" This limits the anointing to those who belong to the church. The sick, desiring the anointing, are to call for the elders. In the apostolic times there was supposed to be a plurality of elders in each congregation, hence it would not be difficult to secure elders when needed for the service.

The purpose of the anointing is twofold: First, the restoration to health, and as a second consideration it is promised that if the sick person "have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." We read that "the prayer of faith shall save the sick," — that he is to be raised up from his sickness. When called to the bedside of the sick, devout elders pray over them, and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. This they do, feeling that the God, who knows all things, will do for the sick that which is for their good. They pray for healing, anoint for healing, and yet, with implicit confidence, trust the Lord to fulfill his promise in his own good way.

There is another promise, and that is an important one. If the sick have committed sins, they shall be forgiven. This does not mean forgiveness where there has been a life of sin, or where there has been willful or premeditated sinning. It means the sins growing out of the human weakness of saints whose faces are set Zionward. The supposition is that those who call for the anointing have done what they could to make wrong right, and that they have been striving to live right in the sight of God. And yet it is said of such, "If they have committed sins." A strong emphasis should be placed on the if, for it is not presumed that men and women can go on sinning for years, and then, near the end of life, have all their sins removed, because of the anointing service.

OBITUARY

EMMA A. GIBBEL

Sister Emma Gibbel was born June 12, 1904 in Medina County, Ohio and departed this life September 10, 1989. She had been hospitalized for one week prior to being a guest at the Lebanon Leader Nursing Home for one month. She was the daughter of the late Reuben and Fannie (Bauman) Sensenig. She was 85 years old and had been married 59 years in March 1989.

She was the wife of Levi Gibbel, of Bethel, Pennsylvania. She was a member of the Bethel Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

In addition to her husband she is survived by three daughters: Mary Kathryn, wife of Clair Graver, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, Ada Ruth, wife of Paul Leininger, Denver, Pennsylvania, and Nancy Anne, wife of Kenneth Rogers, Bethel, Pennsylvania; thirteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a sister, Nora, wife of Joseph Brubaker, Rehrersburg, Pennsylvania and a foster brother, Raymond Ulrich, Denver, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were conducted in the Heidelberg Church of the Brethren on Monday, September 25, with Brother Kenneth Leininger (a grandson) and Elder Paul Hartz sharing in the service. Elder James Kegerreis had the graveside services. Interment was in the Heidelberg Cemetery.

Grandsons, David, Fred and Jonathon Rogers, Craig and Tim Graver and Victor Leininger served as pallbearers.

We wish to express our appreciation for all acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us during the time of mother's illness and passing.

Brother Levi Gibbel and family

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation again looks forward to our Spring Lovefeast which will be held on April 21 and 22, the Lord willing. Services will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Everyone is welcome. If unable to come, remember these meetings in your prayers. "He is not here, but is risen."

Sister Mary Lou Kasza, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to thank each one of you for prayer for Brother David Uplinger, also when the Brethren anointed David at 1989 District

Meeting here at Dayton, Virginia. There is power in prayer. God can and will do great healings.

The doctors said he would never come out of this. Brother David can now talk, can walk with help and also feed himself.

Brethren and Sisters let us keep on keeping on in faith. The power of prayer is great.

Sister Thelma Uplinger

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Fourth District Meeting has been moved from the Winterhaven Congregation to the Pleasant Home Congregation in Modesto, April 13 through 15, 1990.

Sister Susan Cook, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will have services April 11 through 15. Our Lovefeast will be April 14, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Tom St. John from the Pleasant Ridge Congregation in Ohio will be our speaker.

We cordially invite you to join us!

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.



Neglect is enough to ruin a man. One who is in business need not commit forgery or robbery to ruin himself; he has only to neglect his business, and his ruin is certain. A man who is lying on a bed of sickness need not cut his throat to destroy himself; he has only to neglect the means of restoration, and he will be ruined. A man floating in a skiff above Niagara need not move an oar, or make an effort, to destroy himself; he has only to neglect using the oar at the proper time, and he will certainly be carried over the cataract.

Luther says, "The Devil came to me and said, 'Martin Luther, you are a great sinner, and you will be damned.' — 'Stop, stop! said I, 'one thing at a time. I am a great sinner; that is true, though you have no right to tell me of it. I confess it. What next?' 'Therefore you will be damned.' 'That is not good reasoning. It is true I am a great sinner; but it is written, 'Jesus Christ came to save sinners;' therefore I shall be saved.' So I cut the Devil off with his own sword."

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1990

April 1 - Created in Christ Jesus Unto Good Works - Ephesians 2:1-10.

1. What is the meaning of "quickenened" in verse 1?
2. For what were we created? verse 10.

April 8 - Jews & Gentiles Reconciled by the Cross - Ephesians 2:11-22.

1. How can we be raised from lowness of v. 12 to the honor of v. 13.
2. How were the Jews and Gentiles reconciled? verse 16.

April 15 - THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST - John 20:1-31.

1. Define "resurrection" as it relates to Christ.
2. What was the "power of the resurrection" Paul desired in Ph. 3:10.

April 22 - The Mystery Revealed by the Spirit - Ephesians 3:1-9.

1. Define "dispensation" in verse 2.
2. What is the mystery in verse 3? (v. 6)

April 29 - The Manifold Wisdom of God - Ephesians 3:10-21.

1. In what are we to be "rooted and grounded"? verse 17.
2. How far above what we can ask or think can we perform? v. 20.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1990

April 1 - The Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13.

1. Why did Christ use the title "virgins"?
2. What does the oil in the lamps represent?

April 8 - The Talents - Matthew 25:14-29, Luke 19:12-24.

1. What do the talents represent in life?
2. For what were the servants rewarded?

April 15 - The Resurrection - Matthew 28:1-20.

1. What is the meaning of "resurrection"?
2. What can the resurrection mean to us? Romans 6:4.

April 22 - The Rich Young Ruler - Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-22.

1. What was the one thing this man lacked?
2. What do we have lacking in our lives?

April 29 - Good Samaritans - Luke 10:25-37.

1. What quality did the Samaritans have that the priest and Levite lacked?
2. Who is your neighbor?

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NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

YOUR INVITATION

Your name's on the invitation
(Jesus sends out the best),
"Come unto me ye that labor,
And I will give you rest."

He has called for you to follow.
Oh, what a great delight,
That He calls the meek and lowly
To come to light from night!

Then tell me why you linger on
In this cold world of sin.
Jesus has so much to offer,
And He'll cleanse you within.

Come to His altar of mercy
And yield to Him just now.
Repent, have faith; He'll forgive you.
At His feet humble bow.

Sister Irene Stout
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Wabash, IN 46992

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA, DOUBTING THOMAS AND YOU

All who read or hear Scripture are familiar with the Queen of Sheba and Doubting Thomas. If you wish to refresh your memory of these characters turn to II Chronicles 9:1-12 and John 20:19-29.

The Queen of Sheba had heard rumors concerning Solomon's great wealth and prudent wisdom. She had heard he possessed wealth worthy of a great king and servants who were happy. Above the material greatness of Solomon, she had heard of his wisdom.

She was used to rich kings. She was rich herself. But the stories of Solomon's riches seemed inflated to her. Stories of the Temple and the palace that he had built impressed her. She just could not believe all she had heard about Solomon. She was determined to find out if it were true or not. So she organized a caravan to make the long journey to Jerusalem. She not only prepared many gifts to take to Solomon but also difficult questions or riddles that would challenge his wisdom. She went with great doubts concerning all she had heard, but she was willing to go to prove whether it was so or not.

It did not take long for her to lose her doubts. Once she saw the evidence of his riches and wisdom she was overwhelmed. In fact she stated that a half had not been told of all that Solomon had. Once she had personally seen and heard these great things she was convinced.

Another who doubted was Thomas, one of Jesus' closest associates. Jesus had appeared to His Apostles in the upper room the evening after His resurrection. Thomas was not present. Later the ten who had been present recounted for Thomas how Jesus

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had suddenly appeared and had eaten with them. This remarkable event just couldn't have happened according to Thomas' understanding. He had seen Jesus crucified and knew He had been buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. This he knew. How could a story like the others were telling him be true?

He declared that unless he should see Jesus and put his finger in the nailholes in Jesus' hands and his fist in the spear wound in His side he would not believe. He could not believe this although Jesus had told them that He must die and rise again.

Thomas only had to wait a week until he had his opportunity. Jesus again appeared in the upper room. He gave Thomas the opportunity to put his finger in the nailholes and his fist in His side. Thomas did not need to go that far. He was convinced. His doubts were destroyed just like the Queen of Sheba's.

The Queen of Sheba had come from afar to prove Solomon's wealth and wisdom. Thomas like the other disciples had followed afar off after Jesus had been arrested. Both had come afar to be convinced.

Jesus was concerned not only with Thomas' doubts but also with those who would not have the same opportunity Thomas had. During the forty days between His resurrection and ascension He would be seen by enough people that His resurrection would be verified. What of all those who could not be near Jerusalem at that time? What of the millions who would be born between His ascension and His return? They could not physically see or touch Him like Thomas.

Jesus spoke of the great blessing that would be available to those who believed although they were not privileged like Thomas. They could not journey from afar to see these things but they would believe through the testimony of the Word of God and those who had experienced the privileges resulting from their faith.

Today we cannot be Doubting Thomases or Queens of Sheba, we must cast doubt aside and believe. We have the privilege, during this age of Grace, of becoming a child of God through the Gift of His Son. God's love compelled Him to send His Son to not only live as a man among men and to minister to them for a season but to become the sacrifice for the sins of each person. God accepted that sacrifice as shown by the resurrection.

It is necessary for us to accept what God has done for us. Our doubts need to be hurled aside so we can be identified with the work Jesus has done for our soul's salvation. We need to believe in Jesus as the Son of God who died to redeem us from our sins and arose as the conqueror over death, Hell and Satan. We need to confess and seek forgiveness of our sins. We need further identifi-

cation through the death, burial and resurrection of trine immersion baptism that we might come forth from that watery grave as a new creature. Being born again by the gift of Spirit of God, we have the privilege of living a life that is pleasing to Him.

The Queen of Sheba and Doubting Thomas had their doubts erased by seeing. Have you allowed your doubts to be erased through faith in Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection?

AFTER THE RESURRECTION, THEN WHAT?

As we approach the Easter Season, we are reminded to commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Before when Jesus was falsely accused, illegally tried and sentenced to death on the Old Rugged Cross on Calvary's Hill, He had foretold His disciples that these events would come to pass. He also foretold them that He would lie in the bowels of the earth three days, then come forth from the grave.

Men and women witnessed each of these events. Many individuals saw Christ after His Resurrection, at one time above five hundred. When the women, early in the morning, went to the tomb, wherein Jesus was entombed, they met an angel who informed them, that Jesus was not in the tomb, but that He had risen.

That is the meaning of the Resurrection, "Rising from the dead." We see it in nature of this season of the year. We have strong Biblical proof of Jesus rising from the dead. In John 14:19, Jesus said, "... because I live, ye shall live also." Therein lies our hope of Eternal Life. There is a coming Resurrection, which is recorded in John 5:26-29. "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Also, I Thess. 4:16-17, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Webster defines "Resurrection" as the rising of Christ from the dead as well as the rising again of all the human dead before the final judgment.

At God's own time, man knoweth not when, all that are in their graves shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resur-

rection of damnation, as quoted above. They that have done evil will be condemned by hearing the Words of Our Lord, "Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity."

Matt. 25:33, "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." Following this placement of sheep (those acceptable with Him) on the right hand the goats (those not acceptable) on His left hand, Christ pronounces rewards and penalties. To those on the right "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." Then shall He say to those on the left, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

That ever-lasting fire is Hell, where the worm dieth not, nor the fire quenched. Those on the right, who will inherit the Kingdom, are rewarded with Eternal Life in Heaven.

AFTER THE RESURRECTION, THEN WHAT? It will be HEAVEN or HELL. There is no middle ground. The Bible definitely and plainly describes both places. Among humanity there are those who do not believe in either Heaven or Hell. Hell is as certain for the punishment of the wicked, as Heaven is for the rewarding of the righteous.

Keep in mind what will follow the Resurrection. The non-believer in Hell will have to confront, in God's time, the words of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 23:33, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" The Apostle Paul raises the question in Hebrews 2:3, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;" The answer to both these questions is definitely, **THERE IS NO ESCAPE** if we neglect to obey God's Word and come under the Blood.

If we do not neglect and do work out our salvation with fear and trembling, there will be a great reward in HEAVEN. Matthew 5:12, Jesus' own words.

After the Resurrection, **WHAT THEN?** We have attempted, in a brief way, to describe the fate of the lost, and that means **ETERNALLY LOST**, not just for a period of time as some theologians advocate. But just as sure there is a HELL there is a HEAVEN.

There are skeptics who do not believe in HEAVEN, nor HELL. Without the hope of HEAVEN, men would be most miserable. I quote a few mens' opinions of HEAVEN. William Shakespeare called HEAVEN the "Treasury of everlasting joy." Persian poet Omar Khayyam said, "Heaven is but the vision of fulfilled desire." Edman C. Steadman, an American banker, poet and man of letters, described it as, "The land that ends our dark, uncertain travel."

Elbert Hubbard, a United States lecturer and essayist said, "Heaven is largely a matter of digestion, and digestion is mostly a matter of the mind."

The Holy Writ definitely tells us that God's Throne is in Heaven. The Apostle Paul had a glimpse of Heaven and saw it as a definite place, wondrous beyond words. In I Corinthians 2:9 we read, "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

We have recorded in Luke 6:23, "Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold your reward is great in heaven:..." These words are the words uttered by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and we can only accept them as the truth. Our reward is guaranteed to us. No one else can claim it.

In II Peter 2:4 we learn that God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them DOWN into Hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.

Revelation 11:12, "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come UP hither. And they ascended UP to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." Jesus ascended UP to Heaven and a cloud received Him out of the disciples' sight.

After the Resurrection, then what? It will be one of two pronouncements, either "Well done, ENTER into the joys of our Lord" or it will be a sad demotion, "Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you."

Considering what follows after the resurrection of the dead, may we, in this life, make the same decision that Joshua did, when he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, OH 44718

HE DIED FOR YOU AND ME

Jesus wept at Gethsemane,
He died on a tree, on the mountain, Calvary.
He stretched His arms in agony,
To die for you and me.

He rose again on the Lord's Holy Day,
He left the tomb and went His way.
The disciples saw Him and five hundred more,
He said to work for Him as never before.

Then a cloud came and took Him out of their sight.
But my friend, I believe with all my might,
That the same Jesus will come again some day,
And take us away to Heaven to stay.

Sister Kendra Wray
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Escalon, CA 95320

ARE THE DUNKARD BRETHREN EVANGELISTIC?

Each church in our brotherhood should have a number of fixed goals for increasing the body of Christ and improving the quality of our worship service. These goals should be something for all to strive for, and we should unite to achieve these ends. Most of all, the goals should be Biblical.

Since our Christian life centers around Sunday worship, let us begin there. I believe each member should be present if physically possible, with a studied lesson and a willingness to participate, as well as a liberal offering ready for the work of the Lord. Each heart should be inclined toward Heaven in order that the congregation may receive a message from God through the minister. Each member should invite and be willing to drive at least one non-member to the meeting each week. Each member should be willing to witness to at least one person a week, not just about where they attend meetings, but concerning their soul salvation. Taking up our daily cross includes giving of ourselves for the spiritual welfare of others. Every member should be willing to help minister to those members that are in retirement homes and hospitals and cannot get to weekly meetings. If every member would follow these simple guidelines there would be an increase in our church attendance as well as our spiritual life.

There is more to our Christian life than mere church attendance. The Christian's daily life is centered around the things of God. He teaches them daily to his wife and children. He lifts up the name of Jesus to those around him, and others come to him for help and advice. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world..." People come to the Christian for light and truth.

The Christian also seeks out the fellowship of other Christians. This is important. Fellowship with other Christians serves to help equip us for our purpose in life, which is to tell others about Jesus. Do we as a church channel all our energies to the salvation of souls? If we do, then and only then can we be considered an evangelistic church.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1930

A COMPARISON?

A. L. Boyd

Jesus established a point of interest when he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my father's business." This he said when a mere boy. When he became a man he said, "I and my father are one." Again, "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God." Here we have an expression of companionship, fellowship, partnership, sonship. "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death and was heard in that he feared." "Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

Assuming the mission, to be about the Father's business was not an easy task, as may be seen by the things he did and suffered, as he was seen by many only a man dwelling among men. Yet by the things he did and suffered he established his claim. He was the son of God. "And lo, a voice from heaven, saying this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Those who have assumed to be about the father's business must, like Jesus did, establish their claim by their words and work. To claim Christ as our righteousness is not sufficient. Our activities, our services, must be in harmony with the father and the son. We must give account for the work done. Jesus, "who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men... and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Truly he has vindicated his right as a worker with the father; "My father worketh hitherto and I work." His work or business surpassed all of his time, and much that is being done today.

"And lo, a voice from heaven." "And was heard in that he feared." A divine benediction upon his work, an approval that Jesus was doing the Father's business. Bringing "life and immortality to light through the gospel." All had gone astray. God was "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Jesus came to establish this work. "As in Adam all died, so in Christ shall all be made alive." Follow him in the regeneration, and you shall be one with the Father and Son. A son of God and a joint heir with Jesus. "The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory... as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." "For as many as are led by the

Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." We are further informed, "we are ambassadors for Christ, and pray in Christ's stead." Therefore we should acclaim with Christ, "we must be about our Father's business." As sons and daughters be in harmony with the Father and Son in plan and purpose. "For without me ye can do nothing." "I am the way, the truth, and the life." As Jesus unfolded the Father's business, the apostles were made to exclaim, "In him verily was the love of God perfected." Though similar afflictions await us, that he suffered, as co-laborers with Christ, let us proclaim the everlasting gospel, to this lost world. The Savior without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, gave us such a beautiful example of life and service, expressing the very essence of God, love to man, throughout all his eventful ministry.

Then why the tendency of so many of God's professed children establishing works so unlike, and contrary to the work of Christ and the apostles. Why so many calling for plays, new plays, pageants, dramas, special programs, special music, special days, and so forth. What is there about Christ's work and message, and associated history that we should want it recast into plays, into composition of the dramatic, into pageants, the imaginal, so that we can, as by rote, theatrical in form, rather pretentious, play and personate the various characters again, that were instrumental in a real way, not playing at it, in bringing about the fulfilling of so many of the prophecies. The apostles tell us that, "they that will live Godly shall suffer persecution." God's children will have an experience similar to the Savior and early Christians, if they do what he told them to do. Jesus told his disciples that they must drink of the cup he drank. We are not told to play over again the follies, sins and virtues of those people back yonder. Christ did not present the Father's business in plays. He did not practice and drill with the elders, high priest, disciples, Pilate, Judas and all the rest, for days and weeks, so they could give the public fine plays. God wants holy living, holy service. But this kind of life is not obtained in personating men's sins and virtues on the stage in plays. If we wish to present the Father's business to the world, we must, like the Savior did, meet the people in their homes, on the highway, in the "Mountains of Beautitudes, in the desert, the sick room, the church house, feed the hungry, in poverty, meet them everywhere. Meet them with the Gospel message, and the ministry of helpfulness. Do not substitute plays for Christian service. You can apply Christ's shed blood only, by faith and repentance, to your poor sinsick soul. Other men's sins, follies and virtues recorded in the Bible are a matter of history. Do not play with them, before God they stand or fall. They like we, must give an account for the deeds done in the body. "God hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth

the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." The foundation has been laid. (I Cor. 3:10-14). Christ's blood is in this foundation. His example of life, the fruits of the Spirit, are before you. Also many of the works of the flesh. (Gal. 5:19-21)

Each individual builds his or her superstructure, for which you must give an account, whether you are in the church or in the world. Some call this "world a stage and each individual an actor", but unlike the stage upon which many "play", in the world you meet the real issues of life. On the "stage" you become an "ape man." You cannot dramatize Christ's life and ministry. Attempt it and you become a sham, a fraud. Christ did not come through, or to play, with other's experience. He had an experience all his own. God wants us to have an actual experience of our own. A real heart service experienced delivering the Gospel message by precept and example. Give the world and all, the real fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23); the stage and its plays belong to "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." Let us stand for Christ and the church, and against making plays of sacred things of which one sees so much in this day. We must live the Christ-like life. Keep away from the play house. "The servant is not greater than his Lord." Christ and the apostles could have gone back to the Old Testament and recast much of it into pageants and dramatic plays. Jesus surely had the wisdom and all knowledge. Could have fitted up their synagogues "to render such plays properly?" Advertised them well? React the sins and virtues of ancients, "and put 'pep' into the community?" "Livened up the church?" though all-wise, that kind of work and method was not in the Father's business. According to present day observations he would have received much applause instead of persecution.

All the pageantry and the dramatizing of sacred things are but a mockery of the life service and death of the Son of God. Why then such a strong demand for plays, new plays, "the demand much greater then the supply." Our Heavenly Father hath supplied us richly in all things. Why not use his supplies only? They are free. They will take you off the "stage" and put you into the field of active, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the people. "In as much as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The message, "By grace are ye saved through faith... created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Not walk in plays, but in "good works." Jesus walked in good works, plenty of them. He is the way, the truth, and the life, let us follow him according to his teaching and example. "If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in

the Spirit." Jesus commanded "go teach all nations." Those that came to this nation centuries ago, taught us to observe all things Christ commanded. They did not bring a lot of "plays" and a lot of "specialties." "Who then hath bewitched us that we should believe another gospel; which is not another gospel: but there be some that trouble us and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

The expressions and manifestations of the Spirit must be kept within the bounds of the Spirit's teaching. The doctrine, how to dress, is a fine illustration. God ordained that mankind should cover their nakedness. But in this day as in all ages, some stop before they are dressed and others do not stop when they are dressed. "In like manner also that women (also men) adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly array." (I Tim. 2:9; also I Pet. 3:3-5.) The Christian's expression of his love to God in this matter, "ought" and "must" stop at being "modestly apparelled." Less is wrong, more is wrong. Note then, the law of the Spirit limits us; and is applicable in all our physical and mental activities. The Spirit's teaching will not allow you to express your love to Christ by buying the finest furniture you can obtain to furnish your home, though you are worth millions. Neither does the Spirit's teaching give us any right to enter upon the play program we are engaged in at the present time. Putting a stumbling block in the way of our children and God's children. The apostles had a keen conception, even in detail, as to how God's children ought to appear before him, when giving expression of their love and worship to him. "Ye have us for an example" - Paul. He might have added, "Christ and all the saints. Many have been reprov'd for giving the wrong expression. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation. It has no plays in it, neither does it demand any. May it not be said of us, "My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a house of play."

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

THE TEMPERATE LIFE

J. H. Moore

The faithful followers of Jesus must, of necessity, be a temperate people. They could not be otherwise and yet remain true to the higher ideals of Christianity. Writing to those who strive for the mastery, Paul says they are "temperate in all things" (I Cor. 9:25). By way of illustration, this applies to the spiritual life. The man who would reach the full stature in Christ Jesus must live the temperate life. As Peter says: Add "to knowledge temperance" (II Peter 1:6). He places temperance among the Christian graces, and it must be regarded as a very important part of these graces.

Temperance is sometimes said to be the proper and moderate use of things. A better definition is "the right use of lawful things." No one has a right to make even a moderate use of that which is harmful. Every man is limited to the use of things that are right within themselves. This applies to what we eat, to the clothing we wear, the habits we contract, as well as to what we drink. One can be temperate in eating, as well as in drinking, and yet there are things that one may not eat, as well as there are things he should not drink. In alcoholic liquors there is nothing that is beneficial to the human system, even when employed in limited quantities. The world-wide tendency in the use of intoxicants is drunkenness. This is the natural tendency. Drunkenness naturally leads to crime and every other thing that is debasing. Strong drink and impurity go together. The former paves the way for the latter.

Drunkenness is everywhere condemned in the Scriptures. It is declared that heaven itself is barred against the drunkard (1 Cor. 6:10). Drunkenness is classed with envyings, murder, adultery and fornication (Gal. 5:19-21). It is regarded as the worst and the most debasing of crimes against God and society. We need not occupy space with many quotations. A few will suffice. In Prov. 20:1 we read: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging." "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also" (Hab. 2:15). This settles the saloon business, for no man can run a saloon without passing strong drink to his neighbor, and making men drink. In fact, the saloon may be regarded as the father of the drunkard.

We have reached an age when the only safe and sane thing to do with intoxicants is to touch, taste and handle not. Not only so, but we must help to make the conditions such that our neighbors will not be led into temptation, and thereby into ruin. This may be brought about by every Christian man, — and woman too, if permitted, — working and voting for prohibition, either local, county, State or national. While we are not urging members of the body of Christ to take an active part in politics, we do urge them to give the cause of temperance their full and united strength. This they can do without sacrificing any principle. It would rather be a sacrificing of principle, — when one has an opportunity to help destroy a great evil, — deliberately to refuse doing his full part.

Intemperance may be regarded as the greatest crime breeder in this or any other land. It is ruining more men, destroying more homes, and causing more wrongdoing than any one thing that can be named. Liquor causes more deaths, and leads to more crimes than can be charged up to any one thing in the world. We need not give figures showing the number of deaths, the number of homes destroyed, the number of destitute mothers and children turned

out into a cold world, the number sent to the penitentiary, the number sent to the gallows, the number sent to the poorhouses, the number placed in the asylums, and the number of murders committed, all because of liquor. We need not tell of the wrecked lives, the unhappy homes, the sad hearts or the millions of dollars worse than wasted. All this is known.

We need mainly to emphasize the importance of the temperate life, in every line of our experience. Fortunate is the man who never touches liquor, even for medical purposes. True, Paul, at one time, told Timothy to drink a little wine (only a little) for his stomach's sake, meaning that he should use wine simply as a medicine. Were Paul living now, and noting what horrors follow in the wake of modern drinks, and observing how little value is credited to alcohol by the medical profession, he would not recommend to the young and promising minister the kind of wine made these days.

OBITUARIES

VIRGIE I. RIO

Sister Virgie I. Rio was born October 29, 1911 at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, the daughter of the late Rev. Amos and Molly (Wine) Bashor. She went to be with the Lord on February 10, 1990 at the Mount Hope Home at Manheim, Pennsylvania, following a short illness. She had resided at the Home for five years, having previously resided in Beaumont, California and Bryan, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by husbands Jacob Bashor and John Rio, one daughter, Elizabeth Ann Bashor, two brothers, William Bashor and Cletus Bashor and one sister, Ruby Sutton. She is survived by fourteen nieces and nephews.

Early in life she accepted the Lord as her Savior and served Him faithfully until her death. She was a member of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church.

Services were conducted at the Buch Funeral Home, Manheim, Pennsylvania by Elders Allen Eberly and Rudy Shaffer. Burial was in Milbach Community Cemetery, Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

GOD MUST HAVE LOVED HER VERY MUCH

God must have loved her very much
And we have loved her, too,
We know how many helpful things
Her kind hands found to do,
But till we reach that happy place
Where griefs are all consoled,
We'll never know the joy she's found
Beyond the sunset's gold.

AUSTIN HOSTETLER

"The Eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. 33:27. Austin Lee Hostetler, age 5 months, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Laura Hostetler, went to be with the Lord on January 25, 1990. Austin is survived by his grandparents, Elder Paul and Sis. Mary Stump, Bro. Don and Sis. Lue Hostetler; great grandparents, Bro. William and Sis. Vera Armstrong, Sis. Dortha Hostetler and many loving relatives and friends. Worship services were held January 28 at the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church by Elders Robert Carpenter and great, great Uncle Edward Johnson. Burial was at Royal Oak Memorial Gardens. Graveside service was held by Elder Dennis St. John. Songs sung were: "Anywhere with Jesus, Safe in the Arms of Jesus, What a Friend we have in Jesus, Sometime We'll Surely Know, Jesus Loves Me and Jesus Loves the Little Children." Austin Lee will be greatly missed, but we are looking forward to the day we can all be together again in HEAVEN! Even though his life here was short, his mission was not incomplete. We thank each one of you for your prayers, cards, concerns and support. We ask that you still remember us in prayer.

There is a story of sweetness and beauty which enlightens the heart of every parent who has lost a child. It concerns a custom among the shepherd folk of the Alps. In the summer time when the grass in the lower valley withers and dries up, the shepherds seek to lead their sheep up a winding, thorny and stony pathway to the high grazing lands. The sheep, reluctant to take the difficult pathway invested with dangers and hardships, turn back and will not follow. The shepherd reaches into the flock and takes a little lamb and places it under his arm, then reaches in again and takes another lamb, placing it under the other arm. Then he starts up the precipitous pathway. Soon the mother sheep start to follow and afterward the entire flock. At last they ascend the tortuous trail to green pastures. The Great Shepherd of the sheep, the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior, has reached into the flock and has picked up our lamb. He did not do it to rob us, but to lead us out and upward. He has richer and greener pastures for us, and He wants us all to follow. Will we follow Him? We will, if we catch a glimpse

"Of the good Shepherd on the height.

Or climbing up the starry way,

Holding our little lamb asleep,

While like the murmur of the sea,

Soundeth that voice along the deep,

Saying, 'Arise, and follow Me.' "

With precious memories of little Austin Lee,
Brother Steve and Sister Laura Hostetler and family

NEWS ITEMS**NOTICE**

The Writing Clerk of General Conference needs to have all business for 1990 General Conference by April 20, 1990.

Brother Eugene Kauffman
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WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation enjoyed a week of Revivals, September 3, 1989 through September 10, 1989. We thank Elder Fred Pifer for the many inspiring messages. May the Lord continue to bless him with the Word.

We extend an invitation to all, to attend our Lovefeast services, Sunday, May 6, 1990. If you can't attend, remember us in prayer.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all who remembered me during my recent surgery, stay in the hospital and since my return home. I appreciate the beautiful flowers, cards, love gifts, calls and meals brought in and most of all for the prayers. May God bless each one.

In Christian love,
Sister Amy Kegerreis



The heights and recesses of Mount Taurus are said to be much infested with eagles, who are never better pleased than when they pick the bones of a crane. Cranes are prone to chatter and make a noise (Isa. 38:14) and particularly so while they are flying. The sound of their voices arouses the eagles, who spring up at the signal, and often make the talkative travelers pay dearly for their chattering. The older and more experienced cranes, sensible of their besetting weakness, and the peril to which it exposes them, take care before venturing on the wing to pick up a stone large enough to fill the cavity of their mouths, and consequently to impose silence on their tongues, and thus they escape the danger.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

APRIL 15, 1990

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CROSS IS NOT GREATER

The cross that He gave may be heavy,
But it ne'er outweighs His grace,
The storm that I feared may surround me,
But it ne'er excludes His face.

The thorns in my path are not sharper
Than composed His crown for me,
The cup that I drink not more bitter
Than He drank at Gethsemane.

The light of His love shineth brighter,
As it falls on paths of woe,
The toil of my work groweth lighter,
As I stoop to raise the low.

His will I have joy in fulfilling,
As I'm walking in His sight,
My all to the blood I am bringing,
It alone can keep me right.

- Ballington Booth

BOASTING

We all know people who are great boasters. It doesn't matter what the subject is, they can top everyone else. They either know more about it or have been affected more deeply or they have the oldest, newest, largest, smallest, smartest or dumbest. They have done everything there is to do more quickly, thoroughly, better, happier. In short they have it better or worse than anyone else. They not only have these objects or experiences but they are extremely willing to share with whom ever will listen, willingly or otherwise. Boasters often become bores.

Boasting is a form of self-commendation. It is self praise. Self praise is hardly worth the air needed to propel it. The boaster measures himself by his own set of values and comes to the conclusion he is better than others.

It is easy to excell when we compare ourselves to others, since men are imperfect. But we forget that they may excell in other areas where we are weak.

We could be compared to the man who took an uppermost seat at the feast. He was pretty proud of himself. As he looked around that room he was sure he deserved to be seated above the others. But imagine his fallen countenance when he was asked by the governor of the feast to take a lower seat when one greater than himself arrived. This is comparable to a person who compares himself with other sinners and figures he is pretty good after all. But if he compares himself with the standard of the Word of God he will realize that he is far short of the standard demanded by God. Then he must realize he really belongs in a lower place than he may have thought originally. This is why Christians are commanded to

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examine themselves so they can see how they are doing compared to God's standard not man's standard.

According to man's standard, Paul had many things he could have boasted of. He was a full blooded Jew, he had been raised in the traditions of the fathers, he had been educated better than most, he was a Pharisee, he had advanced in position. These were all commendable things in a human sense but after becoming a Christian, Paul realized they were but refuse worthy only of being thrown aside. For he realized that the only commendation of value was the Lord's commendation.

Paul knew that those things he had or earned on his own were enviable in other people's sight but they were nothing in the Lord's sight. All he had done could not make him deserving of the Lord's blessings. He had to realize that despite all these accomplishments, he was still a sinner who was in need of the plan of salvation that was available through the Grace of God.

All men must learn the same lesson Paul did, although all will not have the advantage of a dramatic occurrence like Paul's encounter with Christ on the Damascus Road. All must learn that their goodness is unable to meet God's glorious standard. Their only hope for God's commendation lies in their acceptance of Jesus Christ as the propitiation for their sins and as their righteousness in God's sight. Without receiving Him as personal Saviour, they cannot have their sins forgiven nor have the right standing before God. When a sinner becomes a Christian, God can then look at him just as He looks at His Son.

The things people usually boast of are of little value when compared with eternity, forgiveness and imputed righteousness. Paul could see the old things that had been so important to him fading into nothingness, even becoming hindrances rather than helps to him. Now the boasting that he would do would be of Christ and of his own willingness to suffer for Him.

We usually want to boast of good things not of suffering for Christ. We want people to see our advancement not the hard times that may accompany our Christian life. Are we as willing to suffer as Christians or do we only want the glory? Would we boast of what great things we would or did do or would we boast of being useable by the Lord in whatever capacity He would desire? Would we want the visible glorious service or are we content with the hidden, unglamorous service that goes unnoticed by others but not by the Lord?

What do you have to boast about? Would you be able to boast only of that which is commended by the Lord?

THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

Philippians 3:9-11, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

The Apostle Paul makes it clear in these verses that without the resurrection of Christ His sufferings and death would not be complete. We can only know the power of His resurrection "through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." While the shed blood of Christ on Calvary was the means of our salvation, it would not have been complete without the resurrection. For we read in I Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are not in your sins."

Our own righteousness has absolutely nothing to do with our salvation. In fact Paul seems to be teaching that we have no true righteousness of our own. The teaching that all men have a spark of good within them that has to be fanned to bring it to full glow is false teaching. We can have all the positive thinking and self love with self potential that we want and still miss the power of His resurrection. In fact such teachings will lead us away from the power which is in Christ. Paul says our own righteousness is of the law. Trying to follow the law is trying to live a holy life by human strength and wisdom. Take the time to read the book of Hebrews, chapters eight and ten, and you will find this spelled out.

Baptism is a symbol of the power of His resurrection. This act of faith is not human works, as some teach. Just as the resurrection is the complete work of the shed blood of Christ, baptism is the completed work of our salvation. This is taught in Romans 6:3-4. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:" It is not our duty to decide who enters the portals of Heaven but only to proclaim the truth of His Word.

If we are to enjoy the results of the power of His resurrection we must also share in the fellowship of His sufferings. The popular religion of today teaches health and wealth and a life of ease. Very little is said about the fellowship of His sufferings. This suffering goes beyond the sickness of body that we sometimes go through. But the teaching that a Christian should never suffer sickness or

pain goes beyond what the scripture teaches. It is true that God can heal and we have the promise that He will be with us in the midst of all our sufferings. However, many fine dedicated Christians have suffered diseases that gave them many years of pain and suffering. We must leave such things in the hands of a loving God in place of putting forth human theories and understanding on the subject. As we stated, the fellowship of His suffering goes beyond this. Not many are willing to suffer for Christ in our day. In place of suffering for the truth men have twisted scripture to find an easy way out of difficult situations. The time may be fast approaching when we will suffer for the truth of the Gospel. While the world seems to be going in the direction of peace this could bring persecution to true believers. Many see fundamental Christianity (not to be confused with modern day fundamentalists) as a threat to "real peace." Those who can never experience the power of His resurrection because they deny the reality of a bodily resurrection are welcomed with open arms in many so-called-Christian movements.

Going back to Romans 6:9-12 we read, "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." We do not believe that Paul is teaching sinless perfection in this chapter. But he makes it quite clear that we have the power not to allow sin to reign in our mortal bodies. One of the most dangerous teachings in the world today is that sinning has nothing to do with your salvation. Within the context, Romans 6:23 speaks of those who have experienced the power of His resurrection. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." "Death" cannot refer to physical death in this instance.

Because we have shared in the power of His resurrection we are assured that one day we will have resurrected bodies. Then all sin will be done with along with all sorrow and pain. We shall then be perfect in every sense of this word. Let us desire to live obedient lives so we may share this ultimate power of His resurrection. Will you not join us if you have never experienced the forgiveness of sin by His shed blood and the power of His resurrection?

Brother James M. Hite
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"The Sodom and Gomorrah Society"

Just a few years ago, I would never have thought that it was necessary to write an article on the horrible morality that is a threat to the believer in Christ. But, today, I believe it is time to more clearly understand what the Bible says about this unparalleled sinful environment in which we live and work.

We are admonished in Luke 17:26, "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." In the time of Noah and Lot, the sexual depravity was the norm of the time. Again, we see the same condition occurring today.

We find it impossible to even read the newspaper or listen to the radio without coming in contact with pornography. It is a megabillion dollar industry in this country and we are all touched in some way by it.

Organizations as Planned Parenthood and some Departments of Education are providing materials for children to read by age three that study all aspects of sexuality. They record certain physical actions as perfectly acceptable and normal and are a definite deviation from God's Word and His plan for us. Children's rights movements are actually promoting the most harmful of illicit sexual behavior. They call restrictions "unreasonable prejudices." They say that children and youth should "enjoy" the same rights as married adults.

There is no consideration for what is spiritually right or wrong, let alone what is a psychological reality. A young child is certainly not capable of making a correct decision in an area that is beyond his chronological reasoning capacity.

Homosexuality is becoming more accepted by almost every segment of society and this includes apostate churches. In fact, the Gay Community News, Boston, made the statement that "All churches that condemn us will be closed." A television program entitled "Gay Pride, Gay Politics" showed how much power the subculture yields. The gay liberation movement has brought this sin out of the closet and into the mainstream of life... both politically and spiritually. The Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco boasts a membership of around 1000 and is the mother church for a homosexual denomination of nearly 70,000 people meeting in 125 churches around the world. They send out "missionaries" to organize new homosexual churches and isn't it ironic that these unhappy men call themselves "gay."

Beloved, we had better not ever forget that God hates homosexuality. He hates adultery. He hates all sin and sexual sin is a

stench in His nostrils. Yes, God loves the sinner and He offers forgiveness and healing. But, if society can convince us that sexual perversion is not sin, then they would see no reason for forgiveness or deliverance, right?

Sodom and Gomorrah gave themselves over to sexual immorality. I Corinthians 6:8-11 and I Timothy 1:8-10 confirm God's condemnation for this sinful activity. We find words there that are translated "homosexuals" and "sodomites" and God says that they "will not inherit the kingdom of heaven." They are condemned to eternal punishment with satan and his angels. It is quite interesting to me that the Greek word MALAKOS that is defined as these two sins is the same word that is used for the "man wearing soft garments" as mentioned by John the Baptist. We would use the phrase "with loose morals" in our current terminology but the meaning is the same. You CANNOT be a Christian and be a practicing homosexual. It is a total contradiction.

I am afraid that the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a commentary of our time. It involved compromise with the world system. It involved turning ones-self over to an attitude of personal gratification. It involved the idea of self satisfaction at any cost.

Dear reader, we have to WAKE UP. The present day events indicate the soon return of Christ to this earth. The signs of the time are ever before us. Extreme materialism, lawlessness, humanism, departure from the Christian faith, abortion, revival of the old Roman system, the universal numbering system, the situation politically and certainly abnormal sexual behavior are crying out to us to stand firm on the promise of God and live every moment in Christ-is-coming awareness. Look up, your redemption draweth nigh.

Brother Len Wertz

DUST AND CLAY

In Genesis 3:19, we read, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for DUST thou art, and unto DUST shalt thou return."

In Isaiah 64:8 we have these words, "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the CLAY, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

"DUST" according to Webster, "is any finely powdered matter such as dry clay." "CLAY is a firm plastic earth having the qualities of being molded or shaped." Note that DUST and CLAY originate from the earth. So did man. Keep this thought in mind as we look further into God's Word.

Various writers confirm that we are DUST and so shall return to DUST when this life is over. David, in Psalms 103:14, "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are DUST." Job 34:15, "All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto DUST."

All scriptures regarding the DUST and CLAY are referring to our bodies and not our souls. Job 33:6, "... I also am formed out of the CLAY." Job 10:9, "Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the CLAY, and wilt thou bring me into DUST again?" Job understood very well that we came from DUST and shall again return unto dust.

Daniel, a prophet of God, in Daniel 12:2 states, "And many of them that sleep in the DUST of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." There are many more scriptures referring to the DUST and the CLAY.

In John 9, we have a beautiful lesson of Jesus healing the blind man. As Jesus passed by, He met a man blind from his birth. He never had the experience of seeing anything. The disciples asked Jesus who sinned, this man or his parents? Jesus answered, "Neither; he is blind that the works of God should be made manifest in him." As He spoke those words, He made a spittle of clay and anointed the eyes of the blind man. That was Jesus' part. Often, in Jesus' healings and miracles, He did His part, but, He also assigned the recipient a part to do. He told the blind man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. He obeyed. He went his way, he washed and returned having received his eyesight. IT PAYS TO OBEY CHRIST.

There is a parallel lesson here. Jesus used the same material to heal this man, that He used to create him, a portion of the dust of the earth. Today, advanced science and surgical teams transplant organs from a healthy body, replacing the corresponding organs to the diseased organs in an ailing body.

Jeremiah was instructed to go down to the potter's house. The Lord told Jeremiah that at the potter's house He would cause Jeremiah to hear His Words. Arriving at the potter's house, the potter was at work on the wheel. The vessel that he worked was marred at his hand. It was misshaped, perhaps broken, not presentable as the output of a skilled potter. Jeremiah observed the potter starting over. He made another vessel pleasing to the potter. Jeremiah 18:5-6, "Then the word of the Lord came to me, (Jeremiah) saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel." God was not well pleased with Israel, at times. This scripture refers to one of those times.

In Jeremiah 18:8, if a nation or individual would turn from their evil ways, He would repent from punishing them, and in turn, would bless them. Turning here means to forsake the way they were displeasing God and turn and obey Him. Jeremiah, as a prophet and a man of God, understood the lesson clearly.

The Israelites, which in God's sight compared to the broken vessel on the potter's wheel, had to be made over by God to conform to the will of the GREAT POTTER. He wanted and still wants a people that will be pliable and conformable to His will. God wants His Human creation to be submissive, as His Son Jesus was, "Not my will but thine be done."

All human flesh has to be broken down and worked over by the great Potter, Jesus Christ. In yielding to His will, He will make of us a vessel that seemeth good to Him. We notice in Ephesians 4:11, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:4-5.

Most potters have their own trade mark, or means of identifying their work. Once we yield to the Great Potter, and He makes us a vessel of His choice, we become a new creature, old things have passed away and all things become new. WHAT A CHANGE.

DUST and CLAY are of little value, in their natural state, but, worked over by man or God can become useful products for mankind. Human beings, in their natural state, are of little value to God. But being converted, having their sins washed away they become God's elect.

In conclusion, I Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." We cannot be included in that verse of scripture if we have never been worked over by the GREAT POTTER.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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DESIRES, DECISIONS, AND GOD'S WILL

As I am writing this article, there is an auction going on to dispose of about fifty used school buses. While there may be nothing remarkable or unusual about that, the problem comes in the fact that I wouldn't mind having one of them. And this essay will delve into the struggle of deciding whether or not to go to the

auction and buy one — and why I'm writing this article instead of bidding on a school bus at this moment.

My fascination with buses began when I was in first grade — on my very first day of school. To get to school, we would walk to the designated bus stop, and then the school bus would come and pick us up. I distinctly remember sitting on the seat of the bus, wishing that everyone would be quiet so I could hear the sound of the engine and the whine of the transmission gears. While I did not always have a full appreciation of going to school to gain an education, I did enjoy the process of getting there and returning home during the elementary school years.

Upon promotion to high school, the daily bus rides ended. My interest in buses lay somewhat dormant until the tenth grade, when I accompanied a group from area schools to do a week-long convention in Kansas City, Missouri. And how do you think we got there? Our teacher drove us in his car to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and there we got on a Continental Trailways Bus. This was the biggest and best bus on which I had ever ridden! I enjoyed all one thousand miles to Kansas City! We were required to write a report about the trip. I submitted a seven-page report. Out of the seven pages, six of the pages were used to describe the bus ride, while a whole week of meetings and activities were polished off in one page. I had written a great report, but it was about the wrong thing!

That brings me to the situation of today. Here is an opportunity to buy a school bus at — probably — a very reasonable price. So why am I writing instead of bidding at an auction?

First, consider the “pros” of the situation. My interest has already been expressed. Another point is that the bus would be used for “the Lord’s work” — activities such as taking the church group to sing at Nursing Homes, going to revivals at other churches, other special activities, and Christmas Caroling. It’s a lot of fun to do things as a group. But it’s so expensive to charter a bus and driver from a local bus company, and it’s next-to-impossible to locate a suitable bus that would be available without a driver.

But how does the Lord fit into all of this? I wish I knew! Let’s suppose a few things. First is the fact that a good brother handed me the auction notice last Sunday after church. (It’s a good thing he gave me the notice after church, so I was saved from the temptation to be deciding which would be the right bus on which to bid during the sermon.) Wasn’t he led of the Lord? From that standpoint — couldn’t it be said that it’s a miracle that I knew about the bus auction at all? Wouldn’t it be good stewardship to own a bus (if it can be had at a reasonable price) rather than charter one? Maybe it could even be used to pick up children for the School at

the Church. Can you see how I could easily take my personal desire and turn it into my perception of "God's will?" After all — this whole thing is "for the Lord!"

Now think about the "cons." I do not have any place to park a bus. We certainly do not have the funds allocated in our budget for any bus. And there is a certain amount of risk associated with buying any used vehicle.

The theological issues are even more interesting. Doesn't God set up circumstances? Certainly He can, but I believe that Satan can set up circumstances, also. Therefore I reject the idea of basing major decisions on a series of circumstances. Then the thought comes up that one generally should take advantage of opportunities. Perhaps you've heard the saying, "If the door is open, you ought to walk through it." But sometimes when you walk through an open door, you find out (too late) that there's an elevator shaft on the other side! So one needs to be cautious about open doors.

The idea that buying a bus would be "for the Lord" has its interesting aspects. So often, our personal interests become so important to us that we get them all mixed up with God's desires. While it's true that God can use our interests and desires to advance His work, many times they get in the way of what God would really have for us. Jesus warns about this: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24).

There are several other factors to check in making a decision. My wife did a good job of remaining neutral, but I know in my heart that she would as soon have a white elephant in our back yard as a bus! As for parents, my father is about as excited for me to buy a bus as he would be about jumping into a lake. We should look to the Bible when checking about God's will on a decision, but buses aren't mentioned. However, chariots are mentioned, and King Solomon had fourteen hundred of them! (See Kings 10:26) So wouldn't that indicate that God wants his people to have an abundance of chariots (or buses)? I also prayed about this, but God didn't tell me to go place any bids, and no unexpected money showed up in my mailbox.

However, there is one other bid of philosophy which gives me hope. That is the idea that, first, Satan comes along and offers his best, and then God offers His best! Could that mean that God has a Greyhound in my future?!?

Brother Robert Lehigh

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1930

JUDGING OURSELVES

Eugene W. Pratt

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." (I Cor. 11:31).

There is much being said in these days about self discipline and that the church cannot enforce discipline.

They refer us to Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43, where Jesus says, "Let both grow together till the harvest", (30th verse) and that the harvest is the end of the world (39th verse) and say we must let the good and bad remain in the church until the end.

But notice Jesus says "The field is the world" (39th verse). "The good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one" (38th verse). So Christ is sowing his faithful workers in the world, Moffat, Livingston in Africa; Cary, Judson, Morrison in India, China and in Africa; Satan is sowing Mohammedanism, Polytheism in India, Buddaism in China and Japan, and Mormonism and Modernism in our own so-called Christian America.

Now let us look at our text, "For if we would judge ourselves we should not be judged", or as Moffat renders it, "If we only judged our own lives truly we would not come under the Lord's judgment."

Paul was giving instructions how to prepare ourselves to come to the Lord's table and in the 28th verse he says, "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

What is the standard? Jesus says, "The word that I have spoken the same shall judge him in the last days." (John 12:48).

See Psalms 89:3: "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my mouth", then Jude 3, "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints."

Now the question is did Christ and the apostles teach that the church should exercise discipline? or did they leave it all to the individual conscience?

In Matt. 18:15-18 Christ gives explicit instructions for settling offenses and as the last resort the offender is to be judged by the church, "And if he neglect to hear them", (17th verse) the offended brother (15th verse) the two or three witnesses (16th verse), "Tell it unto the church, but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven", (verses 17-18). What is the antecedent of ye? the church. Then in

I Cor. 5:1-13 Paul is rebuking the church at Corinth for not exercising discipline in a case of fornication, and tells the church "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved of the Lord Jesus" (4th and 5th verses). Then in the 11th verse, "But now I have written unto you not to keep company if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous or an idolator or a railer or a drunkard or an extortioner: with such an one no not to eat." Paul is writing to the church and tells them not to fellowship a brother who does those things. Then in the 12th verse he says, "For what have I to do to judge them that are without? do not ye judge them that are within. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (13th verse). Then in II Cor. 7:1-16, Paul commends the church that they had cleared themselves of the evil.

Then in Gal. 1:6-9, Paul exhorts the church against false teachers and says let them be accursed. (See II John 9-10; II Thess. 3:6). Then in I Cor. 6, Paul places the settling of controversy between brethren in the church just where Christ placed it in Matt. 18:15-18. So we see the church has the authority delegated by Christ who stated "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18) to judge its members even to excommunicate those who do or teach false doctrine.

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ let him be Anathama (set apart) Maranatha (the Lord is at hand)" (I Cor. 16:22).

Now, the purpose of church discipline is two-fold.

First, that the church may be pure. "Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it. That he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish", (Eph. 5:25-27).

Second, to get rid of sin in the flesh and save the soul (I Cor. 5:5; II Cor. 2:6-10).

Now what have we found? First, that we are privileged to examine ourselves, our own hearts, and judge ourselves by God's word in preparation for partaking of the Lord's Supper and are exhorted to do so with righteous judgment.

That it is the duty of the church to exercise discipline over its members that the church may be kept pure. "Giving no offense in anything that the ministry be not blamed." Let us then day by day examine our own hearts and ask wisdom of God to judge ourselves with righteous judgment to the end that we may be found blameless and not come under the judgment of the church. That we should not be condemned with the world. (II Cor. 11:32).

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

THE CLEAN LIFE

J. H. Moore

David prayed that the Lord would create in him a clean heart (Ps. 51:10). Paul instructed his spiritual son, Timothy, to keep himself pure (I Tim. 5:22). In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart" (Matt. 5:8). That was a fine prayer of the Psalmist: "Cleanse thou me from secret faults" (Ps. 19:12). There is another injunction in II Tim. 2:22, just as helpful: "Flee also youthful lusts."

These thoughts lead up to the clean life, the life that every Christian should live before God and man. Let it always be borne in mind that God searches the heart, and that, in determining character, he looks upon the heart. He judges us by what we really are, and not by what we pretend to be. Every man, so to speak, lives two lives, — one outward, and the other inward. We may judge of the standing by what we see and happen to know. God judges by what really exists in the heart, in the mind, in the soul, in the thoughts, in the meditations and in the desires. Knowing this, well might David pray: "Cleanse thou me from secret faults."

There is perhaps no phase of life more important than that relating to the purity of thoughts, meditations and desires. The man who lives a clean life in his thoughts, who keeps his imagination within the limits of purity, and who confines his desires to the things that are right and clean and proper, is the one who can lay claim to the clean life. But here, right in the heart, is where the foundation for the real life is laid. Well has it been said of man: "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). The thoughts, the meditations, and the desires make the man, and determine his character.

In view of the fact that all things are open before God, and that, in determining what one is, he looketh upon the heart, it must be evident to every thinking person that the clean life is the only life that the Christian can afford to live. Any other life is sheer mockery, and can be accounted for on no other ground than that one has no respect for himself or for his God.

There are no secret sins of lust, that fasten themselves onto people when young, and often follow them all through life. These are the sins that contaminate the soul and weaken both mind and body. Any thought, or any impure or unclean habit should be shunned as one would avoid the fangs of the most dangerous reptile. This can be done only by thinking, meditating and acting along the right lines. As Paul would have us do, — let the mind feast on the things that are honest, just, pure and lovely (Phil. 4:8).

NEWS ITEMS

MANY THANKS AGAIN

For the 101 Birthday greetings, many letters of encouragement and, last but not least, your prayers for His healing, and for many friends who gave me spiritual support and cheer. The Lord will bless you.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder



An unbeliever, in Texas, read that "God works according to the rules of geometry." "I always thought," said he to himself, "that things were made by chance. Is there a rule about everything?" Just then he saw close by a sweet little flower known as the "Texas Star." He picked it up and began to examine it. He counted the petals; he found there were five. He counted the stamens; there were five of them. He counted the divisions at the base of the flower; there were five of them. Then he examined another flower. It was the same with that. Another and another were examined. It was the same with all. There were five petals and five stamens, and so on, in every case. "How is this?" he said to himself. "If these flowers were made by chance, some of them would have three petals, and some two, and some none. But now they all have five; never more never less. Here is work done by rule. If it is done in this way, there must be someone to do it. And who can that be? Oh, I see." And then he picked up the little flower and kissed it, and said, "Bloom on, little flower; sing on, little birds; you have a God, I have a God; the God that made these made me."



Our years here on earth may be many, or they may be few, all that really matters is what you do.



Though you have in this world but little, or a lot to give, all that life considers, is how you live.



The difference between God and Satan. God satisfies and Satan gratifies.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1990

May 6 - Walking Worthy - Ephesians 4:1-16.

1. What is the vocation we are called to?
2. What is our standard of maturity? verse 13.

May 13 - MOTHER'S DAY - I Samuel 1:1-28.

1. What normal desire did God give women? verse 11.
2. To whom should we give our children? verse 27, 28.

May 20 - Putting on the New Man - Ephesians 4:17-32.

1. What are we to "put off" or "put away"?
2. What are we to put on?

May 27 - The Fullness of God - Ephesians 5:1-17.

1. What proof of love is given in verse 2?
2. What should be our response to "the unfruitful works of darkness"?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR MAY 1990**

May 6 - The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32.

1. Define the word "prodigal."
2. What was the "root sin" of the prodigal son?

May 13 - Mothers - Gen. 21:6, I Sam. 1:22, Luke 1:41-46, II Tim. 1:5.

1. Name some qualities of a Godly mother.
2. How has your mother blessed your life? Have you told her?

May 20 - The Unjust Steward - Luke 16:1-13.

1. Which of the masters in verse 13 do you serve?
2. What is required in our stewardship? I Cor. 4:2.

May 27 - The Sheep - Matt. 18:12, Matt. 25:31-46, Luke 15:1-7.

1. How do we as Christians compare to sheep?
2. Are you committed to serving "the least" of men?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I BIND MY HEART

I bind my heart this tide
To the Galilean's side,
To the wounds of Calvary —
To the Christ who died for me.

I bind my soul this day
To the brother far away,
To the brother near at hand,
In this town, and in this land.

I bind my heart in thrall
To the God, the Lord of all,
To the God, the poor man's Friend,
And the Christ whom He didst send.

I bind myself to peace,
To make strife and envy cease,
God! knit Thou sure the cord
Of my thralldom to my Lord.

- Lauchlan MacLean Watt

GOALS

In every endeavor in life, goals urge us to try our best so we can accomplish them. Without goals our efforts are liable to be sporadic and feeble but with goals there is a pinnacle that draws our interest and channels our effort. When effort is directed and specialized more can be accomplished than when effort is diffused.

When members of a sports team have a common goal, they can work together. They are willing to help each other so the team will win. When one or a few players have the goal of personal attainment, the team suffers. The immediate goal of the team is to win the game and eventually the championship. Hopefully they will also learn teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Goals apply to more serious endeavors in life. There are goals that are individual which a person desires in his own life. There are shared goals that more than one or even a group of people work to achieve.

Husbands and wives need to have a common goal. There must be an established desire to stay together and to remain actively in love. They dare not take each other for granted but must strive to please the other. They must nurture their love through the tough times that might adversely affect their marriage. Their example of shared love is the best example they can set before their family. One of the regrettable situations of today is the break up of marriages and the break down of the family. These conditions show that goals have not been set nor worked at.

There are goals that can affect the financial well-being of individuals and families. With economic goals set there can be a more logical effort made. There need to be not only goals

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concerning an increase in income but also concerning the decrease in expenses. Goals may entail further education, investment or other preparations. If there is no perseverance in holding expenses down or in increasing income, the goal of economic stability will be lost.

Goals are for groups as well as for individuals and families. The goals of the Church should be the goals of each member. Since the Church is a body of believers each member must contribute to the fulfillment of the group's goals. Just as the physical body needs the full participation of all organs to fulfill its work so the Church needs each members's participation. While each congregation's goals may differ somewhat depending upon its circumstances these should include not only survival and preservation but also expansion. There should be a desire to extend geographically, so there would be outposts and perhaps eventually other congregations developed.

The Church, as represented by its congregations, is no stronger than its members. If the goals of the group are to be achieved they must be achieved within each individual member's life. While members may talk about being Christians there must be a greater personal goal. To be a Christian means that a person accepts a certain doctrinal philosophy stated by the Bible. To achieve the goals that Christianity entrusts to believers there must be a translation of those beliefs into reality. This activity may be called godliness, holiness or righteousness. To be a Christian, for most, means only the acceptance of a certain belief but godliness entails the necessary effort to translate that belief into a life that is an imitation of God. Belief or faith is necessary to give substance and reason to what is done, but without a consistent life that faith is a mockery. There are millions in this world who profess to be Christians, but who do not give any evidence of what they believe by the way they live.

A moral life based only on being good or self-improvement or a positive attitude is a mockery. The life that translates faith into action is the one which will please God. This life requires much perseverance in Bible study, prayer, family teaching and a willingness to share in word and deed.

The goal of the godly, Christian life is not simply to reach Heaven after life here but to actually live the life that pleases God. The goal should be to live as one knows is right, to do as the Bible not public opinion dictates.

Do you have economic, social, educational goals? Are you striving to implement them? Do you have Spiritual goals that go beyond belief but are translated into life? If you have these goals are you actually doing what is necessary to make them a reality? Are you a Christian in name or are you a Godly Christian?

WHICH ARE YOU?

Some definitions:

A fugitive is one who is running from home.
A vagabond is one who has no home.
A stranger is one who is away from home.
A pilgrim is on his way home. Which are we?

Pilgrims we are, to Canaan bound:
Our journey lies along this road;
This wilderness we travel round,
To reach the city of our God.
And here as travellers we meet,
Before we reach the fields above,
To sit around our Master's feet,
And tell the wonders of His love.
Oft have we seen the tempest rise;
The work of Satan, Hell and sin,
Like mountains, seemed to reach the skies,
With scarce a gleam of hope between.
But still, as oft as troubles come,
Our Jesus sends some cheering ray;
And that strong arm shall guide us home
Which thus protects us by the way.
A few more days, or months, or years,
In this dark desert to complain;
A few more sighs, a few more tears,
And we shall bid adieu to pain.

Most people, including quite a few church members, do not understand us. Sometimes we do not understand each other. But God's people do not grope blindly in the dark. They have a destination. They seek no mansion here below. They are heading for Heaven. Not because of something they did, but because of Jesus.

Jesus lived and died so that we may have an abundant life, never to die. Jesus said follow me, though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them whiter than the snow. Some of us had tried to save ourselves through religion and the works of the flesh, but Jesus' sweet admonition was all we needed. We answered His call and our fetters of sin fell off. The gospel is too simple for some, and too complicated for others. But for those who listen with their heart instead of their ears, Jesus is precious.

Pilgrims have no continuing city, but they seek one to come. Abraham was a pilgrim. So was John the Baptist. Abraham was rich in this world's goods. John had nothing. Some pilgrims are so

in love with their lifestyle they put it above serving Jesus. We must keep things in perspective. We must love our fellow pilgrims, even though they misunderstand us. Take the world, but give me Jesus. The longer I love Him, the sweeter He grows. The things of earth will grow strangely dim to those that love His appearing. Blessings and prayers to each and every one of you.

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TO BE CONTENTED IS A GREAT VIRTUE

To be content with what we are and with what we have is commendable. Few people have arrived at that station in life. Few people are completely SATISFIED, which is the simple definition Webster gives for contentment. Totally surrendering our will to God's will, and willingly accepting whatever God bestows on us, is evidence of contentment. Contentment is an on-going battle for most people. Why? Because we live in a world of discontent.

More often than not, real life does not match up to our dreams. In the natural life there is much discontent. Labor wants shorter hours, more pay, longer paid vacations and more opportunities for advancement. Management wants more production, cost cuts and offer fewer benefits. This discontentment often leads to strikes, lost production, lost wages and many times damage to the company and even the loss of lives.

It is human nature to want to be contented. If found, it affords joy, peace and satisfaction. Contentment is very illusive. One would be hard pressed to find an individual who is completely satisfied in every way.

Even in Christendom there often is little contentment. Too often the discontented members break off from the mother church to start a church, more compatible with their beliefs. There will be those, so states the Bible, that will not endure sound doctrine. We realize there are such today. So much so, that they support a more lenient version of the Bible. THAT CAN BECOME DANGEROUS, spiritually speaking.

Masses of people being discontent with what they are or have, strive for a better position, better health, more money, a nicer and more costly home, a better car and a slimmer waist line. The list is endless.

I read of a man who said it was a struggle to get the first million dollars together, but much easier to amass the second million. He was not content to have one million. He wanted more. John D. Rockefeller was once asked how much money it takes to satisfy a

man. He answered, "A little bit more than he has." No matter how much we have, we are never satisfied.

In Phillippians 4:11-12 we read, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to be abound and to suffer need." The Apostle Paul is a good example to pattern after. Not many persons can achieve his standard of living for Christ.

Jesus gives us thoughts on worry and discontent. In Matthew 6, Jesus gives us reasons not to fear or worry or be discontented. "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink: nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on... Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap... yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:" Yet God provided their every need. Therefore, (In my words) do not worry or be concerned about your needs for tomorrow. Be content and assured that God will provide our needs as He did for the Children of Israel, in their wandering in the wilderness.

This does not mean that we are not to provide for our own. We are commanded to provide things honest in the sight of all men. If we apply ourselves in an honest effort to provide, God will give the increase. Assured of His promises, we should be more content than what we are.

The Apostle Paul experienced the extremes of life. Through them he learned to be content. Whether he was well fed or hungry, whether in plenty or want, whether in jail or free... he learned, "in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." I believe that God gave Paul a special talent. When he and Silas were in prison, they seemed content in as much as they sang hymns at midnight.

Hebrews 13:5, "... be content with such things as ye have:..."

Job was tried to the limit. His wife said, "Curse God and die." He did not lose his integrity. He obeyed God and looked to Him for strength to endure, which he received. He endured bitter trials but did not complain.

Faith is a very essential ingredient in being contented. A simple definition of faith is, "Taking God at His Word." It is impossible for God to lie. What He says He will do, HE WILL DO.

Sometimes we human beings are so discontented with what we are or what we have that we storm Heaven with our prayers for a change. Sometimes God grants that change, because of our repeated and insistent prayers, He knowing it's not what we

actually want or need. When we receive it, we soon know we asked God for the wrong thing.

A good illustration of that thought is recorded in Joshua 7:7. The Children of Israel wanted out of Egypt so much that they murmured and complained until God responded. Moses, instructed by God, led them safely through the wilderness. He provided all their needs. They soon had a change of mind. They said, "Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in Egypt." They actually again longed for the fleshpots of Egypt. God delivered them into the hands of the Amorites. Apparently, through their begging, God gave them what they thought they wanted but it was not what they actually wanted. They were highly discontented. They prayed Joshua to help them in their discontentment. He prayed the prayer as recorded in Joshua 7:7. "And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!"

I humbly admit, at times, I am one of those in life that become dissatisfied. I have to endure things I do not like. But prayer and patience, in God's own time do change things for the better. The Lord knows what is best for each of us and the proper time to give it.

Elder B. E. Kessler gave me a thought on prayer that I never forgot. "If the Lord was not so merciful, in withholding what we oft-times pray for, we would be ruined at our own request." I think that definition applies to my subject under consideration.

The Greek Stoics did not believe that contentment consisted of possessing much, "But in wanting." They said, "And not to ones possessions, but take away from him his desires."

The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Christ is able and willing to provide all the qualities we need to be content, at all times, if we are willing to cooperate with Him.

Contentment requires an attitude of faith, dependence and discipline. If we are discontented, dissatisfied and unhappy, there is a source for help and comfort. Ask God to bring contentment into your life. In Philippians 4:11, Paul speaking, "... for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Let us strive to be more contented with our lives and our lot in life, as we see THE DAY OF THE LORD approaching. In Heaven is the only time and place where all tears will be wiped away and where we will experience total contentment.

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SERVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART

II Chronicles 31:20-21, "And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered."

Like Hezekiah, we should desire to serve God with all our heart. The definition that probably best fits the word "wrought" found in our opening verse is "made with great care." Whatever we bring unto our Lord it should be the best that we have. The most important thing we can bring to God is our service to Him. As Christians we can only bring that which is good if it has been inspired by the Holy Spirit. There is no good within our human frame to boast of.

Our service to Him must be that which is right. It is never correct to do something that is wrong to bring about a "good" result. In our day it is popular to see everything in a "grey" area, rather than "black and white." That which is popular has more often than not replaced that which was accepted as right by former generations.

To fully understand what is good and what is right we must serve God with truth. The truth is found within the pages of Holy Scripture. Jesus Christ is Truth personified. When we follow Holy Scripture as was revealed by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit we can please God in word and deed.

Like Hezekiah we should serve God with service of the house of God. We do not all have the same abilities but all of us can do something for the congregation we are a part of. God has given some the means to support the church with liberal offerings. Others He calls to the office of Elder or minister. Some are given the ability to teach Sunday School. Various other offices may be filled. While some have more authority than others, one is as important to the body of Christ as the other. We must also be careful if we feel we have a calling from God that it matches up with the truth of Holy Scripture. We may be doing that which is "good" and that which is "right" (in our own eyes) and yet fail to do that which is truth.

While we are no longer under the law, we have the understanding of the church to take into consideration. As we have expressed in a former article, it is good to hold to former traditions, yet conditions may bring a need for change in policy. The keeping of commandments is another matter. What God has given cannot be changed. While we realize that all of our church traditions and bylaws were taken from understanding the Scripture, it must be recognized that there are some absolutes clearly spelled out in Holy Scripture.

When we serve God with all our heart we will be willing to follow the Word of God in all its demands upon us. Majority opinion will not take precedence over the revealed will of God. To say that God is not concerned with how we look on the outside and the things we take part in is to ignore the plain teachings of Holy Scripture.

"To seek his God" is wonderful words. As born again Christians we not only have the Creator of Heaven and Earth as our God but as our Heavenly Father. God has loved us enough to send His Only Begotten Son to die on Calvary's cross for our sins. How much do we love him in return? What comes first in our lives? Do we worry more about what others think of us than what our Heavenly Father thinks of us?

When Hezekiah served God with all his heart the Bible says he prospered. While we oppose popular "health and wealth gospel" we also recognize that serving God with all our heart may bring earthly riches and good health into our possessions. Multiplied thousands over the years have lived in poverty and ill health because they chose to follow the life that included such things as alcohol, drugs and gambling. Many hard earned dollars literally go up in smoke and many suffer from diseases because they are controlled by tobacco. Heartache, disease and brokenhearted children are the results of sexual sins condemned by God's Holy Word. But far beyond any earthly loss we may have by not serving God with all our heart are the spiritual blessings that will be denied or lost.

Are we willing to take up our cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ no matter what the cost? Will persecution cause us to stumble and fall by the wayside? Will the cares of life cause us to lose the need to seek Him by reading His Word and prayer? Are we truly willing to give our life as a living sacrifice? Are our bodies really an example to the world that we are the temple of God? Do we truly worship God and love Him more than our personal treasures? Each of us must answer for ourselves. It is so much easier to SAY I love God with all my heart than to SHOW IT BY OUR ACTIONS.

Before you can serve God with all your heart you need to accept His Son the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. (He is also God the Son). You must be willing to allow Him to be Lord of your life as well as your Savior. His precious blood will wash away all your sins as is symbolized in trine immersion baptism. Let each desire to serve God with all our heart and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth.

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Working Mothers

Our families are under great pressure today from all sides. What was instituted by God for harmony and protection is greatly opposed by Satan who would love to frustrate its success. Satan knows that a strong, stable home will produce equally stable and strong children. Thus, he opposes us each step of the way as we work to provide a godly environment in which to live and grow.

Children are a part of the home for such a short time. With two boys in their teens, this fact is coming home to me very forcefully. We have so little time to direct values, reprove sin, direct toward right influences both in terms of peers and activities. We have so little time to encourage faithful church attendance, to teach habitual Bible reading and prayer. So little time is available to direct values in music and modest and unworldly dress.

Now let me say that in the single-parent family, the mother has no choice but to work and support her little injured flock. But in two parent homes there should be a great priority in having the mother be at home as much as possible to give security to the children.

We all read a lot about "latch-key" children today... those who come home from school and enter an empty house. What an empty and frustrating feeling that must be. There is no one there to answer questions, to give encouragement and love. Just emptiness and stillness... except maybe for a roaring "ghetto-blaster."

The Bible teaches that the mother should be a "keeper at home." (Titus 2:5) She is in the most secure and safe environment there. The office or factory offers opportunity for hurtful lusts to occur that would never be a temptation if the mother was at home. You say, "that could never happen to me." Don't be too sure. I am aware of more than one case where homes were broken and families split in exactly this way. The new stress was unmanageable and the married woman gave in to adultery.

The Bible teaches us that the man is to be the major breadwinner and when the mother becomes the provider she by nature also becomes the leader and decision maker. Instead of being dependent, there is a growing independence which stresses the marriage even more.

God has blessed women with a special "nesting" drive that makes them desire the home over the workplace. A godly woman has her first priorities centered around being a wife and mother and a homemaker. Only a mother can effectively kiss away little tears and give special character training to small children. The temptation when returning home from a job is just to move away from

the family and lick the wounds of the day which are tension, frustration and "emotionally tired." This situation causes resentment in the husband and children and the problems are exacerbated.

A woman with a godly priority to home and family is a happy woman. It is Biblically fulfilling to be creative and responsive to the family in the job of being a homemaker. There might be an older car in the garage, fewer possessions, little notoriety... but there will be happiness and contentment and that is what life is about. Even secular psychologists tell us there will be fewer problems with drugs, alcohol and immorality where there is constant supervision at home.

One of the major reasons our young people gain strong peer loyalties is because they have to have someone to talk to and to have care for them. Full time mothers fill this bill and become the confidant, the companion, the source of stability in the life of the child. Loyalties become strong... relationships cemented with care and love. Satan gets defeated!

To you young people that are looking toward marriage and families, I beg you to approach the time when you look forward to raising a family the Bible way. Don't send your children away from you. Be "keepers at home" and accept the obligation to which you have committed yourselves. The role of the homemaker is by no means demeaning. It is unmeasureably rewarding and full of blessing.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1930

HOLINESS

J. H. Beer

II Cor. 7:1-3: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

What promises are here referred to? Evidently those given in the preceding (6th) chapter, upon our willingness to comply with the conditions upon which the promise is made. "O, ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you. Our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straightened in us, but ye are straightened in your own bowels. Now for a recompense in the same... Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with

darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God: as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them; saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," (notice these promises), "And I will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

All this talk about holiness when we are unwilling to comply with the conditions upon which these promises are made, is as empty as a barrel with both hands out. Holiness and purity go together, without the one the other will not exist. Holiness unto the Lord is one of the cardinal doctrines of the New Testament (Heb. 12:14). "Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." This being true, there is no salvation in heaven for a man or woman who does not follow after holiness. Notice how the Lord speaks to his people personally (I Pet. 1:16), "Be ye holy, for I am holy." The reason for holiness is that God is holy, only the holy can see God. "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren." (I Thess. 5:27). Holy people engage in holy conversation (II Pet. 3:11), "Seeing that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conversation and godliness." Holiness leads to the higher attainments in Christ Jesus. It means the ideal spiritual life that strives to rise above all that is unholy, impure, unclean. It is the purifying quality in the Christian's life that places him in close communion with the great Divine. This plane of living is reached by the way of faith and obedience, only those who have implicit faith in Jesus Christ, and keep his sayings, can claim the holiness so highly emphasized in the New Testament.

Those who set aside the plain commandments enjoined in the teachings of the Master and his disciples have no gospel claims whatever to holiness. The doctrine presupposes faithfulness in all things and only those who are loyal to the gospel can justly lay claim to holiness in the Lord. Men and women who set up the claim of personal holiness without any regard to the plain teachings of the New Testament not only deceive themselves, but they may deceive others. Holiness and obedience go hand in hand! (Eph. 4:22-31). "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Our Habits

J. H. Moore

We are creatures of habits, and since habits will and must be a part of the life, it is of the highest importance that only the best of habits be formed. It is certainly not demanding too much when we insist on each person regulating his own habits. This he can and will do, if he is thoughtful and resolute.

One may be industrious, or he may be indolent. He may be saving, or he may make of himself a spendthrift. It is in his power to become a miser, or to be noted for his deeds of charity. It is a matter of his own choosing, to be selfish or generous; to be cleanly in his appearance or to be neglectful of self; to be prompt, or uncertain about his engagements, or even to be coarse or refined in his general deportment. We need not arrange a list of habits, good and bad. We can merely call attention to the importance of habit-forming, so as to put the reader to thinking.

But there is one baneful habit to which special attention should be called, and that is the tobacco habit, — probably the most widespread habit in the civilized world. Men everywhere chew or smoke. And what is remarkable, the habit was unknown before the discovery of America, and owes its origin to the North American Indians. At the start, the use of tobacco was resented by civilized Europe, but now it is popular in the highest, as well as in the lowest, ranks of society.

But the habit is an evil one. It is unclean, unhealthy and expensive. Not only so, but it is repulsive to some of the most devout and refined people of all lands. We say it is an evil, because its results are evil. It has been shown, time and again, that the use of tobacco, both in smoking and chewing, affects the brain and undermines the health. It is a well-settled fact that the tobacco-using students in colleges and universities cannot make as good grades as the students that have never formed the habit. Discussing the cigarette habit, — which is found to be as harmful for young men as for boys, — Mr. C. W. Baines, in the Sunday School Times, says that the record of Harvard University shows that, for the last fifty years, not one tobacco-using student has stood at the head of his class, though eighty-three out of every one hundred of the students use the weed. Then it is added that, as a rule, the nonsmoking boys and young men can enter college one year sooner than the tobacco-users. This speaks volumes against the brain-destroying habit. Surgeons have learned that in case of an operation, the non-tobacco-using patients recover sooner than those who have formed the tobacco habit.

It has also been demonstrated that tobacco is a poison, and that, when first used, it has a terrible effect on the human system, thus showing that it was never intended for men in any form. Then it is offensive, so much so, that in most public places, such as waiting rooms, there is a notice posted: "No Smoking Allowed." On all passenger trains there is a special coach for smokers. They dare not indulge in their habit while occupying first-class coaches. This alone ought to serve as a sufficient hint for people who wish to form only the best habits.

The use of tobacco is unclean, and at times becomes exceedingly repulsive. The smoke poisons the atmosphere that people must breathe, while the fumes from chewing sometimes produce a stench that is decidedly offensive to the more cultured. Can one say that a habit against which so much can be said is becoming a Christian? Most assuredly not! So objectionable is the habit that many of the denominations will not permit their ministers to indulge in its use in any form. Think of the expense connected with the worse than useless practice. It leads to the life-long habit of spending money for that which will undermine health and weaken the brain. Candidly, why should one employ his own hard earnings for his own personal injury?

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 9-13, 1990

Directions to the Memorial Holiness Camp Grounds located one and one half mile southwest of West Milton, Ohio on Jay Road. Those traveling from North on I-75, should exit at Route 55 and go west to Route 48, then south to Garland Road (approximately one half mile south of West Milton) then west to Jay Road, then north to grounds. Those coming from North on Route 127, take Route 571 to Route 48 then proceed south to grounds. Those coming from East or West on I-70, should exit at Route 48 and proceed north approximately six miles to Garland Road and proceed west to grounds.

By plane, come to Dayton International Airport and call the camp grounds for someone to pick you up. The telephone number is (513) 698-9387. Those coming by bus, come to Dayton and call the camp ground number or there is also local bus service from downtown Dayton to West Milton.

If possible, bring your own bedding. There will be bedding available at the grounds for those who cannot bring their own.

There are plenty of camper hook-ups available.
Send your reservations now to:

Bro. Don Hostetler
5855 Sweet Potato Ridge Road
Englewood, OH 45322
(513) 832-3136

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to a Lovefeast on May 19-20. Services will start at 11:00 on Saturday.

We cordially invite any, who can, to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

GREETINGS FROM TORREON!

It was special to be in Pennsylvania on my birthday this year. I thank the many who gave me birthday cards and gifts while there. Also, thank each of you who sent cards, letters and gifts in the mail. The birthday meals and special remembrances will not be forgotten!

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." II Thess. 3:16.

Sister Mildred Skiles



They tell us that cloth which has been dyed red can never be restored to its original purity. But when a piece of red cloth is viewed through ruby glass, the color is lost. So sins — red like crimson — are lost when the blood of Christ is interposed.



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BIBLE MONITOR

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MAY 15, 1990

NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

VAIN MAN, THY FOND PURSUITS FORBEAR

Vain man, thy fond pursuits forbear;
Repent, thine end is nigh;
Death at the farthest can't be far;
O, think before thou die!

Reflect, thou hast a soul to save,
Thy sins how high they mount!
What are thy hopes beyond the grave?
How stands that dark account?

Today, the Gospel calls today,
Sinners, it speaks to you;
Let ev'ry one forsake his way,
And mercy will ensue.

Rich mercy, dearly bought with blood,
How vile so e'er he be,
Abundant pardon, peace with God,
All giv'n entirely free.

- Joseph Hart

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable for many things in our lives. With the privileges we enjoy comes responsibilities. There are efforts that need to be expended and things done correctly or else we will have to explain why they weren't and a penalty may be imposed. This is accountability. It cannot be passed off to someone else. We have to bear the price for failure.

At work, we are responsible to do our job with an honest, loyal, and concentrated effort. We must work accurately and in a timely manner. If we fail to do our work willingly or as well as demanded, we are subject to various penalties including being fired.

At school each student is responsible to conduct himself in a way that promotes a learning atmosphere. He must work diligently, turn in his work, participate in class and behave himself. He must be honest in doing work and taking tests. There are penalties ranging from standing in the corner to expulsion for those who do not conform to the rules.

Each member of the family is expected to behave in a certain way and to accomplish various tasks. As children grow older and their privileges are increased their responsibilities become greater and they become accountable for more. Children are expected to do certain chores and to follow other rules established in the home. There are penalties in the home for those who do not follow their parents' wishes.

Beyond home, school and work there are further responsibilities in the community. As members of society there are many laws and regulations that we must follow if we are to be accounted as law-

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abiding citizens. There are many officials including police and judges who impose penalties if we do not obey the laws of our land.

These are some of our responsibilities but we have an even greater accountability than these. For we have a responsibility to God. All who live are accountable to Him but many ignore it, although their ignorance will not be a valid defense when they must stand before God's judgment seat.

Each is accountable for his acceptance of and obedience toward God. Review Ezekiel 18, there God gives Ezekiel instruction concerning the accountability of each person. Many like to place the blame for their actions on others. Whether blaming their parents, the environment, the government or many other conditions, they are seeking to avoid their personal responsibility for their choices and actions. But God will not accept such excuses. He has deemed each who has understanding to be responsible for their own behavior.

God's Grace and Mercy has been extended to mankind so they can be freed from their deserved penalties. He has given through His Son, Jesus Christ, a plan of salvation that will overcome the sins of their lives.

Fathers and Mothers are responsible to provide the best training possible for their children but once those children are able to make their own choices in life, the parents do not bear the penalty of the children's iniquities. Each child must bear his own sin and how he handles it will determine whether it will lead to praise or penalty.

There are some who are unaccountable for their behavior. They include babies, small children, retarded, insane, senile and others who through accident or disease do not have the right use of their minds. But all who do have their faculties are responsible and accountable. The age at which a child becomes accountable may vary some from child to child depending upon that child's mental status and training. Jesus was about his Father's business at the age of twelve so it would seem that a child of twelve, or not too far beyond, should be able to be about God's business also. Children may not have had the opportunity to commit great and horrible crimes but when they become old enough to realize that by rebellion, argumentativeness and disobedience they are breaking the commandment to honor their parents, they are old enough to be accountable for their behavior.

Once we have become accountable for our actions, we have no other to blame than ourselves. The deeds that we do will have their resulting consequence. It is a serious business to be accountable unto God.

The vilest sinner may repent and change his ways so he will become pleasing to God. The righteous man may be drawn aside

into sin that will cause him grief. Each is accountable for his deeds.
Realizing your accountability before God, how will it be for you?

GLORY

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Cor. 3:18.

Glory (definition) noun: great beauty and splendor, magnificence, resplendence.

We will never know completely the glory of God in this life. Men have tried, with tongue and pen, to describe the glory of God. Moses had to cover his face before the multitude so that the people could not see it in its physical sense. As the hymnwriter has said, the half has never yet been told, but it will be over in the glory land. In this life, though we have partaken of the glory of God, it is but in a small way. We will know all one day. We have only been given a small taste. Our appetite is whetted, and as Elijah of old, who went forty days on the strength of his meat, so we enter into our pilgrimage with the strength of God's glory to sustain us. The difference is that our God renews our strength constantly, from glory to glory.

"What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised land,
What a day, glorious day that will be."

Is this your hope today?

Simeon waited to see the Lord. When Jesus was brought to the temple as a child, Simeon took Him up and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Oh, to have such an assurance! Oh, to see the glory of the Lord! May God help us, and show us His glory, just as Simeon was shown.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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THE BLESSINGS OF CRISIS AND PERILS

Crisis means: Any crucial situation.

Crucial means: Severe and trying.

Perils means: Exposed to harm or injury.

It is a rare individual, who in the course of their lifetime, does not meet up with a crucial situation, severe and very trying and have never been exposed to harm or injury.

I believe that I am safe in saying, no such person ever lived or is living. Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God had plenty of such experiences during His thirty-three years, plus, while here on earth.

Foxes Book of Christian Martyrs vividly portrays what the early Christians endured, because of their steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Some were burned at the stake. Some were put in stretchers and literally dismembered. All forms of cruel torture were administered.

To escape such cruelty, all they would have needed to have done was to recant their faith in Christ, which they would not. They practiced and experienced what Peter wrote in I Peter 1:7, 9 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." "RECEIVING THE END OF YOUR FAITH, EVEN THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS."

In II Cor. 11:23-26 Paul enumerates crises and perils he was confronted with and endured. "I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren."

Perhaps the Apostle Paul endured more than any other human being, other than Christ Himself. None of the crises or perils deterred His faith. In Acts 20:24, he states, "But none of these things move me, NEITHER COUNT I MY LIFE DEAR UNTO MYSELF, so that I might finish my course with joy and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

Paul was in no way bragging when he said in II Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." He looked forward to the crown of righteousness, promised of the Lord, and not only to Paul but to all those also, that love His appearing.

He re-affirmed his steadfast faith and I quote from his writings in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

The Apostle Paul gives us some more experiences of the early followers of Christ, as recorded in Hebrews 11, "... others were tortured... And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ... they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

We are wondrously blessed in our day. We have not as yet, resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Heb. 12:4.

Bringing my subject down to our day, life can be going along smoothly, for years, then suddenly we find ourselves in the middle of serious crises. It might be the death of a loved one, close friend, it might be your mate, your child or a parent. Such crises change one's life completely. It might be the sudden loss of one's wealth. It could be a physical stroke, it could be the loss of a highly paid executive job. A fire could in a couple of hours completely destroy one's home. It might be a terminal illness.

There are hundreds of unexpected incidents that can suddenly bring one face to face with stark and stern reality. For believers in Jesus Christ, such crises can prove great spiritual blessings. They have a tendency to draw us closer to God, to pray more fervently, and lean harder upon Him.

To those and only those who truly love God and are "The called according to His purpose, "do all things", "work together for good." That is why God's Word gives us comfort, even in serious crises or in serious perils. II Tim. 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:..." Matt. 5:10, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Jesus' Promises).

All of God's promises will be fulfilled if we remain faithful until death.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Spiritual Temptations

Spiritual temptations in the Christian realm are many. The enemy of our soul will work in every area of our lives to destroy our relationship with the Lord.

First, he tempts us to spiritual carelessness. In Proverbs 29:18 we are taught that "Where there is no vision, the people perish." If

we do not have a vision of our completeness or perfection in the Lord... if we do not have a vision of our need to reach out to the lost people around us... we have no vision. We become very careless in our attitudes many times. We begin to see the world as a comfortable place to be and when we do that, heaven is not so appealing. In Ephesians, we learn about being in the "heavenlies." If we are attached closely to this world I can assure you that we are not in the heavenlies. We are as far from heaven as we can get. How easy it is to be affected by spiritual carelessness.

Then there is the temptation of spiritual prayerlessness. It is obvious that spiritual carelessness and prayerlessness go hand in hand. We learn from Luke that "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." If we do not have a passion for communion with God we will not pray. If there has ever been a day in the history of the world when we should be strongly committed to prayer, it is today. We should faint as a result of the evil around us if we neglect to pray. And, our prayers for the lost souls of those around us will show our compassion and Christ like spirit. There are literally billions of sheep with no Shepherd... and we pray so little and with such a limited fervor. May we yield to the Lord in prayer and not to the temptation of prayerlessness.

A third area of spiritual temptation is spiritual fearfulness. Just as carelessness will lead us to prayerlessness, so a lack of prayer will lead us to be fearful. The disciples hid themselves behind closed doors "for fear of the Jews." From whom do we hide in fear? Are we fearful to make a statement for God? That statement is made by our attitude, by our compassion, our outreach, our separation from worldliness, our nonresistant spirit, our peace in the face of turmoil. It is only as we fully live in the Spirit of the Lord that we will overcome paralyzing fear.

Finally, we are tempted to spiritual weariness. There is no question that laboring against fear weakens us as Christians. The "fearless" Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian Christians and said, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." In Hebrews we are told that we have not yet resisted unto blood in our striving against sin.

I believe that spiritual weariness is not so much a physical condition as it is a mental tiredness in the work of the Lord. We might call it "burn out" in today's terminology. Spiritual tiredness leads to failure... which leads to weariness.

May God help us to lean heavily on the faithfulness of God and to watch carefully for His avenue of escape from the wiles of the evil one. May He help us to be victorious over temptations triumphant in our goals.

Brother Len Wertz

PROGRAM FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

of the

DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

to be held at

MEMORIAL HOLINESS CAMP GROUNDS

West Milton, Ohio — June 9-13, 1990

PREACHING PROGRAM

Time	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	Terry Gunderman	"The Ark of the Covenant"	Ex. 25:10-22 Heb. 8:18
Sat. P.M.	Tom St. John	"Ear Pierced Christians"	Deut. 15:17
Sat. Eve.	Harley Flory	"Be Strong in the Lord"	Eph. 6:10
Sun. A.M.	Children's Sunday School	"A God who is able to Deliver"	Daniel 3
Sun. A.M.	John Pepper	"Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount"	Deut. 1:6
Sun. A.M.	Paul Hartz	"Heaven is cheap at any cost"	Eph. 6:13
Sun. P.M.	James Kegerreis	"Our Heritage"	Ps. 127-128
Sun. P.M.	Dennis St. John	"What Seest Thou?"	Jer. 1:11
Sun. Eve.	Fred Pifer	"Joseph, where are you?"	Genesis 37
Sun. Eve.	Kenny Wikerson	"Children Raising Parents"	Prov. 13:12
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study	"A call to Integrity In Christian Living"	Rom. 2
	Adults:	"Obedience to God"	1 Sam. 15
	Children:	"Obedience to God"	1 Sam. 15
Mon. A.M.	David Aungst	"Ready or not here I come"	Matt. 24:44
Mon. P.M.	James Eberly		
Mon. P.M.	Mark Andrews	"Decisions"	1 Kings 11:1-13
Mon. Eve.	Virgil Leatherman	"Bought with a Price"	1 Cor. 6:19-20
Mon. Eve.	C. Leatherman	"Lessons for Admonition"	1 Cor. 10:11
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study		
	Adults:	"A Farewell Message"	Acts 20:17-38
	Children:	"Samson Loses His Strength"	Judges 16
Tues. A.M.			
Tues. P.M.	Decorum Committee	Missionary Program	
Tues. P.M.	John Meyers	"1940-1990: 50th Anniversary of NISBCO"	
Tues. Eve.	David Skiles	"Go, stand and Speak"	

A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT

I Peter 3:3-4, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

There are those who argue that the New Testament Christians were no different than anyone else in outward appearance. The New Testament writers and church history would lead us to believe otherwise. However, the real problem goes beyond desiring to look like the world. Our opening verse leads us to believe there is a real connection between our outward appearance and our inward spirit. It is the spirit of pride that causes an individual to wear their hair in a stylish manner, put on such things as rings, necklaces and earrings, and wear gaudy or in style apparel.

The same individuals who argue against dressing contrary to the world and abstaining from wearing jewelry many times uphold the "hero image" as a model for Christians. Perhaps most of us are guilty of this to one degree or another. Who among us does not speak in awe of the individual who is "strong as a bull?" It is true that "meek" does not mean "weak". However, we should not be boastful of our physical abilities but uphold the true strength that lies within. The brother who can walk away from a physical confrontation is, in reality, stronger than one who betters another in a fight.

It is not as important to know when the meek shall inherit the earth as to accept this as an established fact. History has proven that violence always leads to more violence sooner or later. "The war to end all wars" is a futile dream. The only sword that will bring true and lasting peace is the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

While much has already been written about the meek spirit, we have seen very little concerning the quiet spirit. The Scriptures make it clear that the two go together and yet are not synonymous. Perhaps the reason this is seldom mentioned is because most of us have a problem in this area. As a general rule we like to always get the last word in. We are not implying that it is wrong to stand firm on what we believe. The Bible clearly teaches that we are to contend for the faith. Yet we are to do this with a quiet spirit. We confess that it is much easier for us to avoid a physical fight than it is to back down when the battle involves words.

To be "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" requires a meek and quiet spirit. Unfortunately, the church is sometimes more like a battlefield than a place of love and harmony. Many brothers and sisters greet with a kiss and come out fighting! There is a place for church discipline and order, but there is also a proper method for handling such things. Satan has no greater weapon than a quarreling church. It is very difficult to swallow our pride and admit that there may be more than one acceptable view on some issues not clearly spelled out in Scripture. It is also difficult to admit that we may be wrong on a given issue. Over and above theological arguments are our own personal idiosyncrasies. When we truly love one another we will not overlook sin in an individual's life but we will be able to overlook someone's personal peculiarity. It is sometimes difficult to separate a personal idiosyncrasy from a personal conviction. But both must be handled with love. Can we love a brother or sister who feels we should follow the practices our forefathers upheld in all respects? Can we love a brother or sister who is more "progressive?" Can we even love a brother or sister who is not always consistent in what they say and what they do?

There are many areas where we must learn to be acceptable of one another with a meek and quiet spirit. Some brethren will only button the top button on a plain coat while others button the bottom one. We like to button ours all the way down since we feel that is why the buttons are there. A few of our brethren wear the lapel coat. Some sisters tie their cap strings and others wear them in front or behind. Such issues as these should never be a source of argument. Some prefer a white shirt others prefer a blue one. In recent years many colored shirts have made their appearance. We could add many other personal preferences.

When we follow the scriptural admonishment to be "in honour preferring one another" we will truly have a meek and quiet spirit. This goes beyond being willing to allow someone else to take a place of leadership although that is certainly an important part of it. It goes all the way to an attitude of desiring that others may be first and ourselves last. It is part of crucifying the self that loves preeminence.

The only way to have a meek and quiet spirit is to allow Jesus Christ to have rule of your heart. If you have never accepted salvation through His shed blood you can never have a meek and quiet spirit. More seriously you will miss a home in Heaven. Will lack of a meek and quiet spirit keep us out also?

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1930

JUDGMENT OF GOD'S HOUSE

Eugene W. Pratt

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." (I Pet. 4:17)

Twice during Christ's ministry he purged the temple at Jerusalem (John 2:13-19) at the beginning of his ministry and (Matt. 21:12-17, Luke 19:45-46 and Mark 11:15-19) during passion week at the close of his ministry, showing his earnest desire to keep the worship of God's house pure.

"As Christ loved the church and gave himself for it that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle, any such thing but it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25-27)

The object of the purged temple was to purify the worship conducted in the temple that worshipers might not be contaminated by the world.

"It is written my house shall be called the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Matt. 21:13)

So our text tells us the time is come to judge the house of God, and as it was in Christ's time so let us cast out those who buy and sell or those who make God's house a house of merchandise. (Luke 19:45; John 2:16)

Would not this purge the church of a hireling ministry, (John 10:12-13) bazaars, oyster suppers, theatrical plays and so forth?

Then in Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

"And why take ye thought for raiment." (Matt. 6:28-31) "In like manner also that women adorn with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." (I Tim. 3:9)

"Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting of hair, and of wearing of gold or putting on of apparel." (I Pet. 3:3)

First. Modest apparel, modest, restrained, by due sense of propriety, different, decent, chaste.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12:2)

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (I Pet. 2:9)

"Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." (II Cor. 6:17)

Second. Wearing gold or pearls. Gold rings and jewels for display. Superfluous, unnecessary or excessive display in dress.

Third. How to wear the hair. "But if it is a shame to a woman to be shorn or shaven let her be veiled." (I Cor. 11:6)

"Doth not nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair it is a shame, it is a dishonor to him. But if a woman have long hair it is a glory to her for her hair is given her for a covering." (Cor. 11:14-15 R.V.)

"If a woman will not veil herself, she should cut off her hair as well: for it is disgraceful that a woman should have her hair cut off or be shaven." (I Cor. 11:6)

So we see God does notice our outward appearance and directs us how we should cover our bodies first, in modest, chaste apparel, without gold or pearls, that our dress should be such that it will show a meek and quiet spirit and distinguish us from the world. Peculiar, that men should have their hair cut short, and that it is a shame for a woman to have her hair cut off.

That women should have their heads veiled when praying or prophesying, the plain cap meets the scriptural requirement.

Then the Bible teaches that children should honor their parents and the aged.

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear the Lord thy God; I am the LORD." (Lev. 19:32)

"Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Ex. 20:12)

"Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honour thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise." (Eph. 6:1-2)

"Likewise ye younger submit unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, giveth grace to the humble." (I Pet. 5:5)

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Worldly Amusements

J. H. Moore

There are those, and Paul makes mention of them in II Tim. 3:4, who are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." James (5:5) refers to the same class, when he says: "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth." With such people, pleasure-seeking is the highest

ideal of life. Some of them, with their names on the church roll, may go so far as to turn the house of prayer into a house of mirth. It does little good to preach the truth to them; for, as Jesus says, the good is "choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life" (Luke 8:14). For thousands, who do not have riches, there are the "pleasures of this life" to crowd out the Word.

This is a pleasure-loving age, and millions are more concerned about the life of pleasure than they are about the life beyond. They are more interested in the gaiety of this world, than in the joys and happiness in store for the blessed and redeemed. They think more about the theater than they think about the house of God. Not a few are more interested in the card table than the Lord's table, and are more gifted in shuffling cards than in turning the leaves of the Sacred Volume. They may neglect the religious assembly of the saints on the Lord's Day, but they do not neglect the Sunday baseball, the Sunday golf grounds, or the Sunday evening picture show. They may have no money for missions, or church expenses, but they have plenty for places of amusements and for the pleasures of this life in general. They may not be able to converse intelligently on religious topics, but they can talk by the hour about this, that and the other flesh-gratifying entertainment they have enjoyed.

We have a land of churches, and thousands are interested in the teachings of the Master, but it is lamentable to think that other thousands, in still greater numbers, are more interested in the pleasure resorts of the land than they are concerned about the holy sanctuaries. And the fact that the thousands, whose names are on the church rolls, are also interested in the various pleasures of this life, makes the situation still more lamentable.

Well may it be said of this generation, as it was said of a generation in the ages gone by: "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth" (Ecc. 7:4). What else are the theater, the dance-hall, the billiard-hall, the cardroom, and many of the places of entertainments, but houses of mirth? With these Peter would class places of "revelings, banquetings," and the like (1 Peter 4:3).

The Christian who resolves to live a life of faithfulness must separate himself from everything that would prove detrimental to the profession that he has made. This does not mean that he should cut out the gatherings not strictly religious, or even entertainments, that may prove helpful to him in his intellectual, business and social life. Probably there is no better rule than the oft-stated saying: Avoid the places where you would be ashamed to have Jesus find you.

OBITUARY

WILLARD BEAM

Bro. Willard Beam was born May 17, 1905 in Goshen, Indiana and entered into rest April 23, 1990. He was the youngest child of James and Manora (Garvich) Beam. He was taken into the home of William and Frances Miller to be raised by them when five months old.

His first wife Pansy Miller and a small son preceded him in death. On November 8, 1961 he married Lela Lorenz who survives. Also surviving are three sons Leroy, Maurice and Eldo; two daughters, Elizabeth Emig and Eleanor Garcia; two stepdaughters, Kathleen Knights and Delores Lorenz; a brother, Charles, fifteen grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; thirty-six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Although Willard had been in failing health for several years his passing was unexpected. He was admitted to Marion General Hospital, April 3 and was taken to a Kokomo nursing home April 11. He was taken to Kokomo hospital April 17. The planned surgery was not considered serious but complications set in. He was in a lot of pain and desired to go to be with the Lord. He is greatly missed by many friends and relatives but most of all in his home and church. He was a Deacon at the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church and attended when his health permitted.

Services were at the Plevna Church, April 26. Elders Harley Rush and Robert Carpenter conducted the services. He was laid to rest at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Flora, Indiana.

We the family can only thank you for all your sympathy and kindness. May our Lord bless you abundantly is our prayer.



Macdonald once addressed an old man who had lost his sight, saying it would be well if his mental eyes were opened. "I trust they are," he said. "But what do you see?" "That I am blind — that in myself I am a ruined sinner, but Christ is an Almighty Saviour." "But what if He is not willing?" "Willing! Would He die for sinners if He were not willing to save them? No, no!"

MARRIAGE

MALLOW - BOLLMAN

Sis. Benita Joy Mallow, daughter of Elder and Sis. Eldon Mallow, Clearville, Pennsylvania and Robert Duane Bollman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Bollman, Everett, Pennsylvania were united in marriage on June 17, 1989 by Elder Eldon Mallow.

The couple are presently living at R. 1, Clearville, Pennsylvania 15535.

NEWS ITEM

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Congregation plans to enjoy another Revival Meeting from June 17 to 24, 1990. The speaker is scheduled to be Elder David Skiles from Torreon Navajo Mission, Cuba, New Mexico. Please plan to attend these services and include them in your daily prayers.

Sister Mary E. Hartz, Cor.



The smallest thing can tempt. As poor John Bunyan said once, something kept tempting him to sell Christ. If he stooped to pick up a pin the voice said, "Sell Him for that! sell Him for that!" And men sell their honor for things as cheap. A pin will do it; a sweet smile; a fair face; the ruby wine; the love of money. Ah! for what has not a man sold his soul!



A woman arraigned before Alexander the Great, and condemned, said, "I appeal from thee, O king!" Alexander said, "Thou art a mad woman! Dost thou not know that every appeal is from a lower judge to a higher? But who is above me?" She answered, "I know thee to be above thy laws, and that thou mayest give pardon; and therefore I appeal from justice to mercy."

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1990

June 3 - Christ and the Church — Ephesians 5:18-33.

1. When and to whom should we give thanks? verse 20.
2. How much did Christ love the church? verse 25, 26.

June 10 - Doing the Will of God - Ephesians 6:1-10.

1. Whose pleasure should we seek in our work? verse 5-7.
2. Who will reward us for good work?

June 17 - FATHER'S DAY - Proverbs 4:1-27.

1. Define the calling of a father.
2. As physical fathers, what image do we reflect to our children of their Spiritual Father?

June 24 - TEMPERANCE - I Corinthians 9:1-27.

1. How do we apply temperance to life?
2. What area of your life needs more self control?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1990

June 3 - The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13.

1. Note the balance of praise and requests.
2. What is our "daily bread"?

June 10 - GOD'S Tool Chest - I Corinthians 1:21-31.

1. Why does God choose to use us as His tools?
2. Are you a willing instrument in God's hand?

June 17 - Fathers - Gen. 27:26-27, I Kings 2:1-4, Luke 1:67, Acts 10:2.

1. What do you see as qualities of a Godly father?
2. How has your father blessed your life?

June 24 - Temperance - Prov. 16:32, Dan. 1:8, Rom. 14:21, I Cor. 9:25-27.

1. Define and apply, "temperance" to our lives.
2. What areas of your life need more self control?

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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

JUNE 1, 1990

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD IS GOOD

O Thou, the great eternal One,
Whose goodness ev'ry age hath stood,
Thou art exalted over all,
For Thou art great and Thou are good.

Teach me to know Thy tender care,
Thy matchless grace, th' atoning blood;
Thy sov'reign pow'r upholding all,
But more and more that Thou art good.

When doubts, unrest and fears assail,
When grief comes o'er me like a flood,
My brightest day be turned to night —
I rest secure, for God is good.

When human friendships shall decay,
And earth affirm its finitude,
When time wanes to eternity,
One thing remains — our God is good.

- Elsie Byler

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS

How does God get people's attention? People have social, material, recreational and educational interests that demand all or most of their time and effort. They have no time for God or His claims upon their lives. For some this is through carelessness and indifference, but for many it is intentional.

God is able to get the attention of many in their childhood. Through the devoutness of parents and other close associates they grow up close to God desiring to obey and serve Him. Many who have these advantages do not avail themselves of them, instead they go through periods of doubt or open disobedience of the ways they have been taught. Some come to themselves in a few years and correct their course. Unfortunately there are too many who have had these advantages who totally ignore the good lessons they have been taught and continue in rebellion.

There are those in today's largely unchurched, humanistic, non-Christian society, who have not had any teaching concerning God's claims on their lives. They live to please self and Satan, often not realizing their sad condition. Being raised in sin, they become hardened to it and willing participants in it.

How might those who are devoid of Spiritual desire, ever be made to desire a relationship with God? The Bible holds no real power over them for they do not revere it. They are Spiritually ignorant, so Spiritual things seem to them silly and restrictive.

The most carefully reasoned discourses and arguments will not convince them, even if they would have enough interest to listen. They have no desire to attend church or other Spiritual meetings. So it would seem impossible to reach such people with the Gospel

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especially with all the other causes and philosophies that are in the world.

What is impossible for us to do is but an opportunity for God to unleash some of His mysterious ways of touching people's hearts to open them to the saving gospel. God has far more resources at His disposal than we do. We are restricted in our use of the world He has created but being the Creator He can use the world and nature in ways that will affect people's hearts, minds and lives.

Some of the greatest revivals in the United States have been triggered by great physical disasters. One of the greatest disasters was the series of massive earthquakes that shook the Lower Mississippi River Valley in 1811 and 1812. There was much destruction and many lives lost. The terrible power of those earthquakes caused many survivors to consider seriously their Spiritual condition. This great revival affected all denominations. Many, who had little or no Spiritual interest, suddenly were brought face to face with death and what awaited them beyond. There was a revival among the Brethren in the West. Out of that revival came one of the Brethren's greatest leaders, George Wolfe.

God does not always use great dramatic disturbances to speak to people's hearts. A local earthquake, tornado, fire or other disaster will often create the desired result in the lives of those affected. When the possibility of death stares people in the face, they often realize what they need to do so they will be prepared for the change that death brings.

Other times God can get the attention of individuals through personal disasters. Through sickness, surgery, accident, financial failure, or other personal happenings, God can get their attention. It often takes a dramatic situation to persuade them of their need of a Savior and Sustainer in their lives.

It would be a false hope for any to delay their choice of God's way until something dramatic happened to them. Every day not used to serve God is a wasted day. It is far better to yield when the Spirit first calls, even though not dramatic, then to delay doing right.

Those who are antagonistic towards Spiritual things, can best be won through a loving spirit and continuing prayer in their behalf. When we cannot accomplish the desired result by the means at our command then it must be left to God's discretion and power.

God can accomplish great wonders not only in the physical realm but more importantly in the Spiritual. He can shake whole regions and nations just to affect one person's life. His ways are mysterious and past our understanding.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART?

Brothers and sisters, many of us have communicated that very vow in one way or another. It is my whole purpose, as we attempt to briefly cover this subject, that we might once again emphasize the importance of these words.

First, I believe that we must realize that marriage and the home are the very center of our Brotherhood. I say this because of the amount of time we spend involved in these two from the day we are born until we die. It is in a God-centered marriage and home that husband and wife begin to build the church of Jesus Christ. It is begun by a man and wife praying together and building a relationship centered around Christ and His principles. Loving each other unselfishly, they begin to mature. Then soon, if the Lord wills, children are given to this union.

As stewards of these children, we must bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In doing this, we build and keep building the church. It all sounds fairly simple, for we even have God's Word close to us for direction. As simple as it is, we shouldn't fail, should we? Dear loved ones, there is one problem, and that is Satan. He does not want to see the church built up, and he does not want to see marriage succeed. Satan began stirring up trouble in the Garden. He came to Eve and twisted up the very words God had spoken, and even threw in some flattering words to cause her to weaken and partake. From that day, words have been less meaningful.

Today, many people enter into marriage with but one purpose, and that is to fulfill their own selfish desires that Satan has urged them into. If these desires cannot be fulfilled by the first partner, they soon get another. The very vows they said before God and man didn't mean a thing. So the world goes; if they enter into any commitment that doesn't suit them, they back out and go their own way. God does not condone this type of attitude. Satan is at the root of it. Satan knows that if he can stir up a marriage, or even break it up, he has succeeded in stopping the church building process.

There are several areas in which Satan attacks this holy union. We'll only touch on a few. First of all, if husband and wife don't believe they have become one, Satan pushes selfishness between them. Each have lived a separate life before the marriage, and now a second person enters the picture with a mind of their own. Possibly the woman wants new furniture, and the man wants a new car. Satan keeps pushing more and more of these problems into that union, and the gap gets wider. The handling of money enters

the picture, and instead of being God's money that he has intrusted us with, it becomes "yours" and "mine."

As a final blow to the Holy Union, Satan takes his AX and makes a big swing. The "A" in ax is for "adultery." As the gap has widened, we find ourselves dissatisfied with our mate. Satan brings onto the scene, the "perfect" one that can supposedly fulfill all our wants and desires. The "X" in ax is for "crossing out the Holy Union." So life goes on, and divorce and remarriage are commonplace in the world. "Till death do us part" means very little to people, and Satan has won another battle here on earth.

Dear ones, Satan doesn't need to win these battles. God is still in His Heaven, and Christ still intercedes in our behalf.

God gave us the instruction manual for everything in our life, including marriage. The writer of Proverbs says to the man, (chapter 5:18-19) "Let thy fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love." Did you notice the word "always"? This could mean eternally. Another verse that should possibly have been mentioned first, is Ecclesiastes 5:4-5. "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools; pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." When we stood before God and man to say our wedding vows, they are "until death do us part."

Another place in His Word, God told the man to love his wife as Christ loved the church. How did Christ love the church? He gave totally of Himself, enough to hang on Calvary's cruel tree and die for each one of us. So then how ought we to love our wives, but to give of our very being until it hurts. Would that we could fulfill this commandment, I believe there would be more Christ-like homes today.

Wives, how ought ye to be? Ephesians 5:22, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your husband, as unto the Lord." Submit means "to yield or defer to the opinion or authority of another." The very next verse states that the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. Is not man and wife then a type of Christ and the Church? Also in Ephesians 5:33b, "... and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Reverence means "Honor or respect felt or manifested or profound respect mingled with love and awe." Dear sisters, the last part of that definition can be one of the most profound building tools you have. You can tear your man down with words, or build him up with "respect mingled with love and awe." Are your words rich, gracious, loving, supportive, or are they cheap, hurtful, tearing. Meaningless?

As we have tried to cover this subject, we hope we have made us all more aware. Now I challenge you to fight Satan in Jesus' name. Show the world less of self, and more of Christ. Behind self is Satan. Let's have Christ at our center, and once again repeat that Holy vow. Ephesians 5:31, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Till Death Do Us Part."

Brother David Snyder
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Separation

It is most interesting to me that many Conservative Christians have fallen for Satan's lie that one must socialize with and fraternize with the world today in order to live a balanced and "fulfilling" life. We seem to be afraid that our children and youth will grow up socially retarded if they do not participate in the world community. Could it be that we have lost sight of the Biblical values that define a well-adjusted personality?

I would agree that we have to function effectively in a complex and complicated world. But I also believe that many problems are brought on our families because we are more interested in becoming well adjusted in the world than being spiritually well adjusted. Lest we forget the age we are living in, we need only to turn to the book of Revelation and read the account of the Laodicean Church. These people were well received by the world community but they were carnal and un-Christlike. Rather than producing martyrs for the Lord, we are producing "well-adjusted", "worldly wise" adults.

The more we can separate ourselves from the world community, the more opportunity we will have to become supple and moldable for the Lord's service. We will be able to keep our purity and morality rather than get ourselves involved with drugs, immorality and New Age mentality. If we do not adjust well to the character of the church at an early age it will be increasingly difficult to function as a conservative, Bible believing Christian as an adult. We will lack the self-control to discipline ourselves to interact with the church and avoid the world.

We are to have an obedient character and are to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Without vigorous early training and separation, it will be very difficult for us to integrate ourselves into the community of believers. We will not feel comfortable with

believers but will feel "ill at ease" with those who are maturing in the faith at a more rapid pace than we. This frustration causes some people to leave the community of believers and "cleave" to the world for some kind of pseudo-security and fellowship.

In early rural America, families lived in comparative isolation from other people and this environment seemed conducive to harmony and contentment in their lives. They "socialized" with the family and with the church and all of their activity was centered in these two institutions. They were well adjusted and needed very little "peer group" association to develop a happy and successful life style. They reinforced one another with love and with character building teaching.

We sometimes think we are showing love by allowing compromise in our youth... compromise in values, selection of friends, in selecting places to go and activities to participate in. We just accept their life style and their direction for life rather than molding and re-directing it. It is really time that we genuinely care for each other and care enough to stand up for separation. Bad character is contagious and I fear that we have a lesser priority on righteousness than we should have.

I am not trying to be narrow minded but I believe that God's Word gives us a way that will lead to full happiness and joy and peace. We will have less of all of these characteristics if we are playing friendship games with the world. We are to be "Wise unto that which is good and simple concerning evil." Compromise ultimately leads to apostasy and we are well warned of that fact in the Bible.

I doubt that we have to worry about being considered a religious fanatic today as much as we ought to be worried about being compromised with the world. The world is condemned... lost! Will we value what they have over things eternal? May God help us to embrace SEPARATION and loosen ourselves from the grasp of a dead world.

Brother Len Wertz

BIBLE BAPTISM

There is much controversy regarding the subject of baptism. My subject, BIBLE BAPTISM is the only baptism authored by God and recognized by Him. All other methods, pouring or sprinkling, are man conceived. God is not duty bound to bless those who are not baptized the Bible authorized way.

BAPTISM comes from the Greek word BAPTISO, which means, "to plunge, to dip, to immerse." That definitely rules out sprinkling

or pouring. Baptism is a sacrament of symbolic obligation instituted by our Lord to gain admission into the Christian Church.

Bible Baptism was practiced by John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. John baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, not for the remission of His sins, because He was sinless, but He was baptized as an example, how baptism was to be performed. More on that, later.

The mode of Bible Baptism is immersion in water deep enough to put the entire body under water, which constitutes a burial. Rom. 6:4.

Baptism in form consists of trine (three) immersions. One immersion in the name of the Father, one immersion in the name of the Son and one in the name of the Holy Ghost. Matt. 28:19, Mark 1:5, Matt. 3:6 and Acts 8:38-39.

Along with faith, repentance and confession, baptism is for the remission of sins. Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3, Acts 2:37-38, Titus 3:5. Baptism is "FOR" and not "BECAUSE OF", the remission of sins. In other words, no baptism, no remission.

Jesus, in Matt. 28:19-20, authorized the disciples and commanded them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, BAPTIZING them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Observe closely the charge Jesus gave the disciples. Teach all nations baptizing them by trine (three) immersions. Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Upon obedience to that charge, He has promised to be with us to the very end. WHAT A BLESSING. But think of the fate of those who profess the name of Jesus, but deny His Divinity, practice man's mode of baptism, or accept members without any form of baptism.

Countless churches do not obey the commandments of Jesus and God's Word in observing the ordinance of footwashing, in being conscientious objectors to war, wearing the needed prayer veil, the sisters not cutting the hair and so forth, but Jesus and the Word taught them and we are commanded to teach and practice them. THAT charge to the Christian Church has never been withdrawn. DO WE BELIEVE IT?

Bible Baptism is referred to as a burial and as a resurrection. A small child would understand that to bury something, it would have to be covered up completely. Every grave in our cemeteries proves that statement. In Romans 6:4, Paul wrote, "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also

should walk in newness of life." In Colossians 2:12, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Buried with him (Christ) IN BAPTISM, WHEREIN ALSO YE ARE RISEN WITH HIM through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." In Romans 6:4 baptism typifies a BURIAL. In verse five baptism typifies a planting. Burial and planting both require covering up, which is plain to understand.

Several scriptures completely eliminate the thought that baptism can be performed with the pouring or sprinkling a small amount of water over a candidate's head. John 3:23, "And John also was baptizing in AEnon near to Salim, because there was MUCH water there: and they came, and were baptized."

In John 3:5 we have Jesus' own words, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, (BIBLE BAPTISM) He CANNOT ENTER into the kingdom of God."

A natural birth is accompanied by water. That which is to be born is surrounded by water. The New Birth, the Spiritual birth, which is brought about by baptism requires much water so that the applicant can be dipped, plunged and immersed in water. AEnon near Salim provided enough water for John to administer BIBLE BAPTISM, there.

BIBLE BAPTISM does not include infant Baptism. Infants do not have the capacity to BELIEVE. We have recorded the practice of the early Apostles concerning this matter. Acts 18:8, "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, BELIEVED on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing BELIEVED, and were baptized."

The applicant is asked at the time of Baptism, "Do you believe that Jesus Christ brought from Heaven a saving Gospel" along with other questions. An infant could not answer, neither believe. Baptism is for the remission of sins and a new born babe DOES NOT HAVE ANY SINS.

Jesus said, "Ye MUST be born again." That makes Bible Baptism mandatory. There are many more scriptures covering the subject under consideration.

Consider the example of Jesus, the author of Christianity, as recorded in Matt. 3:13-17, "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be BAPTIZED of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be BAPTIZED of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

Now notice the following verses. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John felt unworthy to BAPTIZE Jesus, but Jesus told John, do it now, and John baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. Why the Jordan? They both knew what was required in BAPTISM. Much water, not just a little bit.

After Jesus was baptized IN the waters of Jordan, He went straightway OUT of the water. He had to be IN it to come up OUT of it. The trine (three immersions) was evidenced by the trine God Head. JESUS was in the water, the SPIRIT OF GOD descending like a Dove and lighting upon Him. And GOD'S VOICE came from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." BAPTISM IS A BURIAL.

I find no example elsewhere in God's Holy Writ any other type of BAPTISM being authorized by the Trinity. Another proof that immersion was the only form of Baptism recognized in Bible time is the instance of Phillip and the eunuch as recorded in Acts 8. As Philip and the eunuch were riding a chariot, they came to a body of water, the eunuch was made to remark, "Behold, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized." As we read further in this chapter the eunuch commanded the chariot to stop. "And they BOTH went DOWN INTO the WATER, BOTH Philip and the Eunuch and Philip BAPTIZED him. "And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

It is very clear that BIBLE BAPTISM involves going to the water, going into the water, both the applicant and the administrator and both coming out of the water after baptism. The water was not brought to the candidate, as in sprinkling, but the candidate was brought to the water.

Philip was carrying out the ordinance of BAPTISM, as he was instructed. They practiced no other form but immersion. Each door lock has its own key. Christ said, I AM THE DOOR to the sheepfold (Heaven). He has the key. That key is BIBLE BAPTISM. He made it mandatory when He said, "Ye MUST be born again." Heaven will be occupied by those who obey Christ's commandments.

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THE TREASURES OF THE HOUSE OF GOD

I Chronicles 26:20, "And of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasurers of the dedicated things."

Matthew 6:19-21, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

II Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

I Corinthians 3:16-17, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

In the Old Testament it was considered to be quite a privilege to be over the treasures of the house of God. It is still a serious responsibility to be the treasurer for a congregation. However, the treasures of the house of God in the New Testament era go far beyond the offerings that are gathered on a Sunday morning. We greatly appreciate the very low key emphasis that is placed on the taking of offerings within the Dunkard Brethren Church. This is in great contrast to the begging efforts in many churches and para-church ministries. However, this does not relieve the individual of giving of his earnings to help the work of the Church.

The Lord Jesus Christ warned us against laying up our treasures upon earth. We do not believe this means you cannot have a savings account or own property or other investments. However, if making and saving money becomes a "god" unto you and you neglect the things of the Lord in your desire to gain wealth it would be a time to reconsider your priorities. On a more positive note, he tells us to lay up treasures in heaven. While we would not argue against the "streets of gold and gates of pearl" as being literal, we believe the treasures of heaven go beyond earthly treasures. We believe they include life eternal without pain and sorrow or death. A life of perfect joy and love and peace.

While Heaven will bring the perfect treasures of eternal bliss, Paul tells us we have a treasure now in earthen vessels. The previous verses tell us that this treasure is the glorious gift of Christ. Paul then goes on to tell us that this treasure is our every help in times of trouble and persecution. If we look to our own human strength to take us through this life's stormy seas we will surely sink below the waves of despair. But when the "excellency

of the power (is of) God, and not of us" we can rejoice and claim victory.

The New Testament teaches that born again Christians are the temple of God. The Spirit of God that dwells within us is one of our treasures. We have the assurance that He will guide our way and give us light in times of darkness. The gifts that He gives to all true believers are a part of our treasures. These gifts are to bring honor and glory to God if we wish to have treasures in Heaven. Much that appears to be glittering gold to the eyes of man is but worthless brass in the eyes of God.

With the treasures God gives us also comes responsibility. Paul gives us the dire warning, "If any many defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." Much talk today is about losing rewards in Heaven because of not being faithful to the Word of God. Whatever rewards in Heaven there might be, this warning goes beyond that. We believe it also goes beyond physical death. It is the danger of spending eternity in a burning Hell! As our Lord said in Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Most individuals today desire the wealth and treasures of this world. Millions are buying lottery tickets hoping to become millionaires. The horse race tracks and gambling dens are full. Businessmen are often less than honest in order to make an extra dollar, while individuals lie and steal to obtain dishonestly what the businessman has. The almighty dollar truly runs the lives of the majority of individuals. Do we as the Church follow this trend? We may not gamble or lie and cheat but do we look the other way when someone is in need? Do we equate wealth with righteousness? Are we using our spiritual treasures for the honor and glory of God?

The world is full of poor, rich individuals. They have the means of having almost anything they might desire but lack real joy and peace.

To follow the Lord Jesus Christ may mean giving up all your wealth. He asked at least one individual to do this in Holy Scripture. It will certainly mean sharing your wealth with those in need. But in place of worldly wealth you will have treasures stored up in Heaven. The truly rich are those who have eternal life through the shed blood of Jesus Christ though they may be very poor by this world's standards. Let us desire this wealth and live lives that produce the treasures of the house of God.

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THE TEEMING MASSES

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle..." Job 7:6.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:12.

I once had an opportunity to take a ride in a small airplane, circling many times over a high population area. As I looked down I saw people scurrying to and fro, on foot and in vehicles. From my perspective, high in the air, they looked much like insects. Where were they all running to so fast?

Even when standing still, we are moving. Our hearts are beating, and blood is coursing through our systems. Not only that, but our earth is spinning a thousand miles an hour on its axis. It circles the sun nearly 300 million miles in a year. Our solar system is also traveling through space at 43,000 miles per hour, and the whole galaxy is hurtling through space at over a million miles per hour.

So even when we think we are standing still, everything is in constant motion around us. In addition, though we feel time standing still on occasion and think we are going nowhere, we are hurtling toward eternity. What little time we have on this earth is swiftly passing away, and there is nothing we can do about it. With time and opportunity passing so quickly, what is it that we are doing for the Lord? It is true that He knows our frame. He knows that we are dust. But He loved us and sent His only Son to die for us that we might not only be saved, but that we might serve Him in this present world. With these things in mind, let us learn to number our days and spend them in such a way that our Lord might be glorified.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1930

WHY FIRST SEEK THE KINGDOM?

J. W. Keiser

Nearly two thousand years ago the Savior uttered this language, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." And it has come down through past generations until it has come to us. When we consider the uncertainty of life and the surety of death it would be wisdom in all if they first prepare for that life-eternal at the right hand of God, where all will be joy, where the wicked cease from

troubling and the weary are at rest. The poet has said, "Youth is the time to serve the Lord to insure the great reward." In this way we may be able to more easily to escape the pitfalls that the adversary has placed in the way of the young to lead them away from God and the church. Again we observe the church is in need of workers, for Jesus said to the disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers unto his harvest." (Matt. 9:37-38.) We look around and we see the harvest is ripe for the gathering and many sheaves will be lost if we do not put forth our efforts to gather them into the garner of the Lord. We rejoice that the invitation is yet going out and Jesus is saying, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30.) The invitation has gone out to every kindred tongue and nation irrespective of color, to come and have their robes washed and made white in the Blood of the Lamb. Then why wait for the more "convenient season", for we have no promise for tomorrow. Then how necessary for us to improve the present. The Bible also says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not and the years draw nigh when thou shalt say I have no pleasure in them." (Eccl. 12:1.) Thus we see there is danger in procrastination for we read again where the apostle says, "Today if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts as in the provocation." (Heb. 3:7-8.) No doubt the tempter will come and try to make believe there is time enough yet, that we ought to have a good time while we are young, then when we get older we can give our time yet allotted to us to the Lord. But do not forget God says, "My spirit will not always strive with man." (Gen. 6:3.) Then it will forever be too late and we will have to say the "harvest is past, the summer is ended and I am not saved." Again we hear the apostle say, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned to fables." (II Tim. 4:3.) Then we notice it is not safe to follow after the works of man but should first give ourselves to the service of God and learn of Him, then it will make no difference when the Death Angel calls, we will be ready and truthfully say: "Come, welcome death, I am prepared to go."

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Evil Speaking

J. H. Moore

The Christian's life consists in bridling his tongue as well as in

controlling his thoughts and regulating his passions. In James 1:26 we read: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." It will thus be observed that the use one makes of the tongue, determines the value of his religion. An unbridled tongue means a vain religion. Notice Proverbs 13:3 on this point: "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life." Then, further: "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life" (Proverbs 15:4), and also, "A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1).

It is the converted tongue that honors the Lord, and yet we are told that "the tongue can no man tame." And while this is true, we are told to "keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile" (Psalms 34:13). As members of the body of Christ, we are instructed to "speak not evil one of another" (James 4:11). Peter would have us lay "aside all malice... and all evil speakings" (I Peter 2:1). The improper use of the tongue is severely condemned in both the Old and New Testaments, and evil speaking is classed with the worst of sins.

The people of God are not only to refrain from speaking evil of one another, but they are admonished not to speak evil of any one. This does not mean that sin and wrongdoing are to be overlooked, but it does mean that one is not to spend his time talking about the things that are evil. In order to counteract evil, there are times when the wrongdoings of people must be mentioned. This can be done without falling into the habit of talking about evil things, or speaking of evil reports.

Evil speaking not only affects the reputation of those about whom we speak, but it contaminates the soul of those who do the talking. No one can indulge in evil talking, or talking about the mistakes and sins of others, without seriously affecting his own soul. The habit is a most dangerous sin, and is doing more to poison the minds of otherwise good people than any other one thing that can be named. The practice of evil talking, or talking about things that are evil is, to the mind and soul, what unhealthy and unsanitary food is to the body. Men and women, who would have clean, healthy and pure minds, must learn to think and talk about the things that are helpful, and avoid, as much as possible, conversation about that which is poisonous to the mind and soul.

NEWS ITEM

NOTICE

The Bethel Dunkard Brethren School is needing to fill two vacancies for 1990-1991 school term; that of teacher and school secretary.

Contact: Bro. Verling Wolfe, Route 1, Box 1483 B, Bethel, PA 19507.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE LIVING CHURCH

No form of human framing, No bond of outward might,
Can bind Thy Church together, Lord, And all her flocks unite;
But, Jesus, Thou hast told us How unity must be:
Thou art with God the Father one, And we are one in Thee.

The mind that is in Jesus Will guide us into truth,
The humble, open, joyful mind of everlearning youth;
The heart that is in Jesus Will lead us out of strife,
The giving and forgiving heart That follows love in life.

Wherever men adore Thee, Our souls with them would kneel;
Wherever men implore Thy help, Their trouble we would feel;
And where men do Thy service, Though knowing not Thy sign,
Our hand is with them in good work, For they are also Thine.

Forgive us, Lord, the folly That quarrels with Thy friends,
And draw us nearer to Thy heart, Where every discord ends;
Thou art the crown of manhood, And Thou of God the Son:
O Master of our many lives, In Thee our life is one.

- Henry Van Dyke

ISMS AND SCHISMS

There are innumerable ways by which people are divided. They not only are divided by racial, tribal and national distinctions but also by political, social, educational and religious groupings. Tribal and ethnic differences are long lasting and there is a group memory that remembers past relations for hundreds of years. This memory often has led to wars involving millions of people.

There are other divisions in our country over political persuasions. The political parties are divided by various degrees of belief. These various beliefs vie for voter attention and approval at election time.

It is easy to become classified as a member of a certain group but it is hard to escape that label. It seems to be the desire of many to label everyone. It is disruptive for them when a person is independent enough to work with various groups on different projects. Individuals are unique so cannot be forced to fit a certain mold all the time, though they may most of the time. Everyone is inconsistent at some time, not always fitting the pattern, others would desire for them.

Unfortunately the spirit of schism also is in the church. Not only are there innumerable groups of believers having their polity, but within these groups are more divisions. These divisions sometimes are based on doctrine but more often on the personalities of various leaders. Leaders become identified with certain beliefs and others are persuaded, often through relationship, to join. Others are solicited to join one group or the other. They may be as desirous of avoiding any such connection and yet on a certain issue will agree with one or the other party. This causes them to be

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classified with that group and perhaps made an outcast by the other.

Paul was quite concerned about the many divisions that existed in the Corinthian Church. It was composed of Jews and Gentiles. There were rich members and poor members. The members had varied backgrounds since Corinth was a commercial center and people had come there from various parts of the Mediterranean world, bringing with them their varied cultural backgrounds. Along with these differences, there also arose a feeling of party based on the personalities of various leaders. Each group was loyal to the minister by whom they had been converted. With these various dividing forces working in the church, it is a small wonder that they could not conduct a Lovefeast properly. There was a lack of love fostered by the party spirit. There was an unwillingness to share their temporal possessions. These conditions prevented them from enjoying a Lovefeast service. There was a greater adherence to party than to the church. All were so convinced of their own righteousness that they were intolerant of others in the congregation.

Other divisions resulted from the lack of discipline within the congregation. Conditions were tolerated there that should never have been within the church, but their divisions kept them from united action to solve these problems. This was the reason for Paul's first letter to them. He wanted them to draw together so they could maintain the purity of the church.

There are many pressures in the church today that could lead to a party spirit. There are various cultural and ethnic groups involved. If they are not melded into the church, parties may be the result. The distances between congregations can cause an isolation that can develop into congregational parties. This isolation-induced party spirit can further hamper growth and visiting because those from other areas may not be in full agreement with the local custom. This congregationalism should be replaced by a Brotherhood wide standard of practice. The personalities of strong leaders can lead to division, so leaders need to be careful how they lead others. Their leadership should be for the united good of the Church not just one view point. Parties and divisions are to be seen in every area of life and unfortunately they are not limited to the world. They even find a place in the church, bringing much hurt and harm to the church in the process.

All members need to be careful that they do not foster this division but rather work to alleviate it. All need to be careful to not identify themselves as members of parties nor to force others into that designation. Each member needs to seek the well-being of the

whole Church, that the Church can have a united and effective witness to the surrounding world.

Are you able to avoid the pressures of party within the church?
Are you able to build up instead of tear her down?

REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT?

The tears flooded Jennifer's eyes, once more threatening to overflow their bounds. Looking out the window she saw the rain falling in torrents, washing out the last of the new grass seed they had planted the week before. The blisters from raking stung in her dishwater like haunting reminders to another job undone. Another defeat.

There had been so many in recent days. It had begun with the accident. Everyone had been so sympathetic and understanding. The doctors had done their best, but they hadn't saved him.

Friends had dropped by, and family had offered their assistance. Their words had been so kind, but all she had now were the memories. Memories like the plaque that now hung dusty by the kitchen window.

It read, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24.

She brushed angrily at the hot streaks on her cheek. It had been a gift from her mother on their wedding day. From the beginning it had been a favorite of hers because it made her think of happy things. It hadn't been hard to rejoice that day. It had been sunny and warm. Birds had been singing happily as she had walked into the church on the arm of her father.

Smiling through the tears, she remembered his face as she had gone down the aisle to meet him. So youthful, yet the shadow of manhood had crept into it in recent days. His eyes had been full of hope and energy, full of respect and overflowing with devotion.

No, it hadn't been very hard to rejoice that day. Now the words just fell emptily to the bottom of her heart. She winced as the memories they stirred penetrated to new depths. How could she ever be happy again?

Her thoughts beckoned another flood of grief. Now, she was alone, alone with their car, their home, and with their lawn. The last task they had done together, and now, even it, was running down the driveway in a murky brown stream to the ditch by the road.

As a child I had been taught that verse. It is probably in the list of the "top 20" most used verses by Sunday school teachers. This was one of the many that armed me for future life as an adult. I

must say that, though I learned it at an early age, I never fully comprehended exactly what it meant.

As a child I thought it meant simply that no matter if a day were sunny or rainy, warm or cold, if Johnny could come over to play or not; if I passed a test or not; I still had to rejoice, Because you see, "The Lord hath made it." I had a problem with that then, and needless to say, still do. Although that is true, I think that it has other, more appropriate applications.

Some have said that it refers to the Sabbath. I whole heartily agree that we should rejoice on the Lord's day, but does this verse really mean rejoice on rainy days or apply only to Sundays?

Look with me to the immediate and parallel context that is so important when attempting to understand God's Word.

Psalms 118:22-24, "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

The writer is speaking here of a stone, a living stone if you will, sent from God to His people the Jews who had the building of the "church." These builders were not just unskilled workmen, but were the "professed" best craftsmen around for the work. Let's notice that they did not dress off this stone sent from above, and work it into an unseen course, rather they cast it utterly away as if unfit for their skilled hands to use in "their" wall.

"This man who observeth not the Sabbath, is not of God," "We have no king but Caesar," and, "That seducer said, I will rise after three days." Phrases such as these headlined the commentary of the day. Christ was simply not fit for them to use in their building. He did not match their prescribed blueprint of a Messiah.

This stone judged so unfit by the craftsman, was elevated to the head of the corner by the MASTER BUILDER. Here the "best builder" used Him in a position of prominence to the eye, the head of the corner. Subsequently giving to Christ the work of connecting and bonding forever together the two walls.

The Jews could tolerate no turning or corner in their wall. They felt they must stand alone and far removed from the Gentile people. Christ became the cornerstone that inseparably joined these two walls at the corner known now as the CHURCH. Another important thought; that no wall is stronger elsewhere, than at the corner.

Two walls meet at the corner. Many two's meet under the cornerstone of Christ. Examples of the twos meeting at the corner in this building are — The two nations, Jew and Gentile; The second layer of block is the meeting of the two conditions — Bond and Free; the layer of sex meets — Male and Female; perhaps the heaviest course

of blocks meeting under this corner is that of the two states of life — the Quick and the Dead; also to be considered would be the meeting of the courses of Heaven and Earth.

In endeavoring to explain this Headstone I would have you picture in your mind a block — 8"x8"x16". That is the perfect building block that met the approval of the Jewish craftsmen. Christ, the Head Stone of the corner, is an "L" shaped block. A block that serves to join two walls together, with each portion of the "L" going equally a little way out each wall. This type of stone would understandable be of no value to builders who were building a straight wall, with no corners and with no attachments to other walls.

Verse 23 attributes the refusal of the Jewish builders to use that stone to the LORD. It is HIS doing that they refused and left it for HIM to use as the Headstone. This is marvelous in our eyes. Isn't it wonderful to serve a creator, who before the foundation of the worlds KNEW how HE would use this Stone thought by some to be a stumbling block. His eternal plan was to use this stone to open up a way of salvation to the Gentile people. Had He not planned this day, and had He not used Christ in this way, I think that today we might BE the nations, and today might be suffering the fates of the nations that compassed the writer about in verses 10-12 of our text. The implications are awesome.

Consequently, we should Rejoice and be Glad in the day that God Allowed His Son to become the substitutionary lamb whereby our debts as sinners were paid at Calvary by the "rejected stone."

Adam made a day in his time; it brought sorrow and grief to mankind. God through the use of the Jews and the life of Christ has introduced another day. How much we ought to rejoice in the day that God made a way of escape from our sin burden at Calvary. To THAT day we are forever indebted.

In Acts 4:1-12 we find Peter filled with the Holy Ghost giving a bold statement before the council as they were being examined for the good deed which they had done to the impotent man.

Acts 4:10-12, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, WHOM YE CRUCIFIED, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The correct use of scripture is an issue that rests heavily upon my heart and I encourage you as fellow Christians to fully under-

stand the Divine intent for verses lest we find ourselves applying to mosquito bites a poultice of poison ivy and fiberglass.

Grief is a natural and therapeutic reaction to loss and failure. Jennifer's rejoicing will come with the understanding and hope that a life built upon the head of the corner, Jesus Christ, will rise again to everlasting life.

If it rained today, Johnny couldn't come over to play, and you flunked one of life's tests; take heart, the whole lawn has not washed down the drain, because Jesus has provided a way of salvation open to all!

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Careless Christians"

Carelessness is a powerful enemy of the church today. It seems to loom up in great proportions and casts a shadow over Christians. When we are careless about our commitments to Christ we open ourselves to Satan's assault.

We are warned not to be ignorant of Satan's schemes in II Cor. 2:11. Paul alerted the Corinth church about their chief foe and at the same time he warns us so we might not be taken advantage of by the adversary.

Satan is very real. Christ was brutally tempted by him. He prevented Paul from returning to Thessalonica in I Thess. 2:18. Michael fought with him over the body of Moses. Peter experienced sifting by himing. Adam and Eve were thoroughly deceived by him. If we are serving the Lord in this difficult age of satanic activity, we too, know how he fights against us at every move of our life. It is only by the grace of God and by His power as our mighty fortress that we are able to survive today.

Satan, by his very name, is indicated as our adversary and enemy. He opposes all that God is and stands for. He is darkness, God is light. Satan is evil, God is holy. God is righteous and Satan is a liar. He is the "Devil." This means he is our slanderer and accuser. In fact, we are told that he accuses Christians day and night before God. Not only does God not sleep but neither does Satan sleep as he carries on with his soul damning activity. Satan is a serpent, our tempter, our enemy, the evil one, the deceiver, a dragon, roaring lion and a murderer.

Ananias and Sapphira were careless Christians. Satan had filled their hearts with a motive to lie to the Holy Spirit. This brought

them death. When we exchange the truth of God for the lie and serve the creature rather than the Creator, we are doomed and led to death. To be a dishonest Christian is the ultimate in carelessness. We deny right from ourself right on up to God. It is "lie and die!"

Careless Christians indulge in self gratification rather than abstain from evil and all appearances of it. Careless Christians love wrong things instead of loving the Lord most of all. They mind the things of the world and value them more than the work of the Lord and the fellowship of His people.

Careless Christians take vengeance on their enemies rather than love them and turn the other cheek. If we live an unrestrained and resistant lifestyle, we do not have eternal life dwelling within us.

If we are living for today and centering our interests on the fleeting things of this earth, we are careless and will be unfulfilled. Our minds must be centered on Christ and the heavenlies. If the disguiser, devourer and schemer takes us away from right, we will become careless and fall prey to the enemy.

Life is somewhat like guerrilla warfare. The enemy is always nearby and he is always going to make the battle a difficult one. His tactics are clever and he stands committed to destroy us with his espionage. Much of the time he will actually appear friendly and this is his major strategy in defeating us.

Satan's greatest entry into our lives is made through our minds. Our thought life is constantly a battlefield of spiritual conquest. The Bible teaches us how evil and lustful thoughts lead to evil actions and these actions eventually lead us to death. We first lust after someone of the opposite sex, then we commit sin with him or her. We first lust over that which we do not have, then we commit the act of theft to get it. We first lust after fortune and then we gamble away our income at the lottery to try to fulfill our goal. Satan constantly plays mind games with us and what we are now and what we are becoming in our mind determines what and who we are going to be in the future. If we THINK contrary to God's will, we will LIVE contrary to God's will.

There is a story told about a conversation between Satan and several of his emissaries. They were huddled together trying to devise schemes for leading people on earth into the same fate as theirs. One spirit said he'd tell men and women that the Bible was not the Word of God and that it could not be trusted. The others said that it was not enough. Another said that he'd tell them that God does not exist and that Christ was only a man and that there was no heaven and hell. Again that was not enough. A third demon said that he would tell people that they had all the time in

the world to commit their life fully to the Lord and that they could put a decision of that nature off until some convenient time. "That's it!" they all shouted. That would bring the victory. And it is true. If you are careless and neglect your salvation and commitment to the Lord, Satan has you exactly where he wants you and he will experience victory in your life. May God help us to put carelessness out of our life and live in a state of alertness and recognition of His will for us.

Brother Len Wertz

SAFEGUARDS

Psalms 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

II Corinthians 4:1-2, "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

Every day we see new signs of the foundations of the true faith being destroyed. This will not be the first, and certainly not the last, time we have written concerning this concern. When the foundations or safeguards are lost there is nothing left to build the faith upon. There are three vital areas of our faith that we see challenged today.

The first of these is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the song writer Edward Mote states,

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand."

There are those who teach that the blood of Jesus Christ is not needed for salvation. On the other hand there are those who teach that the blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient without His demand for righteousness. While it is true that we can never compare our righteousness with that of the Lord Jesus Christ and that true righteousness is given us by the Holy Spirit, the Bible clearly teaches that God will judge willful sin. The need of teaching and upholding a standard of righteousness is one of the safeguards that is being lost in the earthly church. Much has been written

concerning the challenge to the virgin birth, sinless life and resurrection and ascension of our Lord. Yet when we feel that no more need be said we will certainly lose these vital truths and safeguards.

If there is anything as important as our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ it is holding fast to His Holy Word, the Bible. We believe it is to our advantage to encourage our people to use the King James Version for public worship and the bedrock for home study. We were quite surprised to find out recently that some very plain individuals, not Dunkard Brethren, thought that the King James Bible was too hard to understand. We believe this is one of the reasons for the confusion in modern thought. We are using our own human understanding instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth. Real Bible study will sometimes cause us to have to do some searching and thinking. Just as the majority of those who are successful in secular education are those who take the time to research and study so should we be diligent in studying the Word of God. Paul tells us the true believers are not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully. While it is not our desire to judge who are true believers or not within the context of who will reach Heaven, we are fully persuaded that the vast majority of those claiming to uphold the true faith are falling far short of this goal. Craftiness is deceitfulness. By failing to observe the teachings of Scripture on outward appearance (and telling others that this is not needed) many professing believers are walking in craftiness. We are concerned that they may cause those who have made a vow to follow the Bible teachings in this area to lose their soul salvation as well as putting their own eternal destination in jeopardy. The lie that you cannot lose your salvation is growing at an alarming rate. By refusing to teach the need of a holy life and the danger of departing from the faith these preachers and teachers are handling the Word of God deceitfully. We must speak the truth commending ourselves to every man's (or woman's) conscience in the sight of God.

Last of all we would like to think about the beliefs and practices of our Brethren faith. Here the foundations are being destroyed. We cannot put those beliefs and practices not found directly in Scripture on the same level as those found therein, and we certainly cannot put them above scriptural teachings. Yet many of our Brethren faith statements and practices have been the safeguards that have kept our people true to the Word of God. Teaching principles and practices that are safeguards is not adding to the Word of God, as some would have you believe. If we make these things our salvation, THEN we are adding to the Word of God. They are not our salvation, nor a part of our salvation, but

safeguards for our salvation. We are convinced that there is a much greater danger today of TAKING AWAY FROM the Word of God than adding to it.

Let each of us humbly search our hearts. Are the things we practice and teach helping our youth and weaker members to stay in the faith or are we a hinderance to them? If you are not a part of the true faith you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and follow the truths of God's Holy Word which includes baptism for the remission of sins. Our greatest safeguard is to allow the Holy Spirit to have complete control of our lives.

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CALLED

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle..." Rom. 1:1a. "Call," (definition) verb, "to make a demand, to command or request, to utter in a loud, distinct voice, to invite, to summon to a particular activity, to rouse from sleep or summon to get up."

When God calls, a person is never the same again. When looking back on his Damascus road conversion experience, Paul said that he was obedient to the heavenly vision. This indicates that Paul was called of God, and had a decision to make regarding that call. I believe that all men are called during their lifetime in some way or another, and they answer that call in some way or another. Some answer right away, positive or negative, and some put off a decision. Jesus says in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." This indicates a universal call for all men to be saved. It shows me that the opportunity for salvation is extended to all men. But how many open the door? Many flatly refuse. They are afraid to be saved. They are afraid of what people will say. They are afraid of ridicule. They do not realize that there is nothing comparable to the value of eternal salvation. What people think or how they feel about you, matters little when compared to eternity. The question should be, what does God think of you, especially if you have refused His faithful call time and time again? Please do not rely on your own strength to pull you through because many who spurn the gift of God are cut off in the midst of their years. Behold, He still knocks. He loves all men, and will reject no one that opens the door unto Him. But the handle is on your side of the door. You must open it. Do so today: admit a loving Saviour into your heart and sup with

Him today. Think not that I am a doomsayer, but it is a fact that tomorrow may be too late. We have seen those who have waited too long. We cannot say whether or not they made it home. But it seemed as though they did not. Answer the call. Open that door of your heart today.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1930

SUBJECT, SINS OF OMISSION

Reuben Shroyer

"He left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded." (Josh. 11:14.)

Personally, I could wish no higher eulogy than this simple sentence, "He left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded." No doubt Joshua did other things which the Lord did not command him. Sins of commission for which pardon was needed. But the quality of this man's life was that his sins of commission were not aggravated by sins of omission. And yet it is just here that the most of us fail, fail without much sense of regret. I do not believe that the average man or woman today suffers many pangs of conscience from the thought of what he or she should have done but failed to do it. In this squirming scramble, which we call life, the chief concern of most people springs not from fear that they are doing too little but from the belief that they are doing too much.

Overdoing is the social epidemic from which all classes suffer. Yet overdoing is simply the result of unregulated life and unbalanced temperament. It springs not from doing too much, but from doing the wrong things too often. We overdo our social duties until social life becomes a fierce competition in which not the fittest but the richest survive. And in all this overdoing nerves, comfort and self-restraint are sacrificed before the Moloch of fashion. In the meantime our sins of omission the things we did not do, are forgotten, till we face them again before the judgment seat of God. Suppose we make a mental inventory of some of the things we did not do. Let us analyze in a simple practical way our disobedience.

First of all, and perhaps saddest of all, let us note our omissions to the dead. The things we might have done to make life to them sweeter. That of course, is to touch the very nerve center of remorse. The keenest remorse, I am persuaded, comes not from

contemplating the actual sins of the past, but from remembering the opportunities of love and sympathy we failed to render. To look back on a long friendship and see, like finger posts along the way, the withered services we might have paid to those who can look to us no more again, is to set quivering with an exquisite pain the nerve of remorse. After all the real spectre of human life which nothing can lay are the letters of sympathy we did not write. The visits of help we did not make. The words of cheer we did not speak. Ah, happy they of whom in remembering their dead it can be spoken that they "left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded. That leads me to mention another item in this inventory. The opportunities of Service we are missing day by day to those who are still with us. There is nothing more beautiful than the homage which a son pays to his mother, nothing sweeter than the devotion which a daughter renders to her father. It is remembering these finer graces in our social intercourse that gives to life a delicacy and refinement without which life is unattractive.

But there is a deeper aspect of these sins of omission. The disobedience of inaction towards our Heavenly Father, as well as toward our earthly friends. Brethren, do you remember on what kind of sins the last indictment before the judgment seat of Christ will be based? Do we all realize as we should that what Christ is going to call you and me to account? Is not our sins of commission but our sins of omission? It is not the big things we may have done but the little things we did not do. How does the indictment read: "I was an hungered and ye gave me no meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink, I was a stranger and ye took me not in. Naked and ye clothed me not. And inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these my brethren ye did it not unto me." It is a startling truth but no less the truth. The mistakes of our life may be many, but it is not our mistakes but our neglects that at last will shut us out from the kingdom of life. Paul says how can we escape if we neglect so great salvation? Men and woman die spiritually by simply neglecting so great salvation. We may be neglecting it by forgetting the needs of those around us. "Whosoever will save his life shall loose it, but whatsoever will loose his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it." We recall how in the parable of the talents Christ taught the same thought. Why was the man with the one talent condemned? Surely not because he misused the talent, but because he neglected to use it at all. He wrapped it in a napkin and buried it. His sin was the sin of omission. The question for us is not how many talents we have but to what use in God's service we are putting them. What are some of the causes of these sins of omission? Why do we leave so many things undone? Partly through thoughtlessness no doubt. Many a time we omit to speak

the kindly word or neglect to do the loving service through the want of thought.

The opportunities for doing these little acts of love that give sweetness to life are swiftly passed. Oftimes they are gone before we think. By times we upbraid ourselves for failing to see such opportunities. Why was I so negligent? You may say as you think of some one in a difficulty to whom you might have stretched a helping hand, why was I so forgetful not to say something that cheered him or to write a letter that would have helped him? So we dismiss our omissions. If our religion is worth anything it should train us in the grace of considerateness for the infirmities of the weak. The apostle Paul has said, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. To say that thoughtlessness is the animating cause of these omissions is begging the question. The real source of our sins of neglect springs from the emphasis we put on life. We emphasize the wrong things. We magnify the trifles, put our energy on things that perish with the using and ignore the realities that count in eternity.

Under the pressure of wealth and pleasure we are putting the emphasis on the wrong things. Life is out of proportion. Instead of looking at the things which are unseen and are eternal we are looking on the things which are seen and temporal. Doing that we leave undone the duties which alone avail in the service of God. What is the cure of this sin of inaction or neglect? It is in the wholehearted surrender of the life to God. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and these things will be added." The needed things. Put the emphasis in your daily life on His service and then living for Him, as stated other things will be added. The days are slipping by, life's opportunities are sifting through our fingers like running sand. The deeds of kindness, the words of love, the service of Christ, the opportunities of helping others, will not always be within our reach. Inasmuch as we do it unto one of the least of these His brethren, we do it unto Him.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Honesty in Business

J. H. Moore

It showed a fine quality in the apostle to the Gentiles to be able to say, as he did say near the end of his earnest and successful ministry: "We have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man" (II Cor. 7:2). In the next chapter he gives advice to those who would live the upright life in the business

world: "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." (II Cor. 8:21).

In these days, when there is a persistent grasping for money, and an insatiable desire for wealth, it is important that those who would deal honestly in the sight of God, as well as in the sight of men, be constantly on their guard. The world is full of dishonorable schemes and financial tricks, and on every hand those skilled in business are taking advantage of their fellow-men. The rich are growing richer, while the poor are finding it hard to make even a fair living. The disposition to accumulate property, with a view of living in luxury, is inducing men to employ all kinds of schemes, in order to gain their ends, and in the rush for wealth, old-time principles of downright honesty are forgotten. While every man should endeavor to make a good living for himself and for his family, and should provide a good home for those entrusted to his care, and see to it that temporal provisions are made for the later years of life, still only methods that are considered honest should be employed in either making a living, or in accumulating property. Fortunate is the man, whether he accumulate much or little, who, at the close of his business career, can say, as Paul said: "We have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man."



The heights and recesses of Mount Taurus are said to be much infested with eagles, who are never better pleased than when they pick the bones of a crane. Cranes are prone to chatter and make a noise (Isa. 38:14) and particularly so while they are flying. The sound of their voices arouses the eagles, who spring up at the signal, and often make the talkative travelers pay dearly for their chattering. The older and more experienced cranes, sensible of their besetting weakness, and the peril to which it exposes them, take care before venturing on the wing to pick up a stone large enough to fill the cavity of their mouths, and consequently to impose silence on their tongues, and thus they escape the danger.



Those boughs and branches of trees which are most richly laden with fruit bend downward and hang lowest. Generally those that have the most grace and the greatest gifts, and are the most useful, are the most humble, and think the least of themselves.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1990

July 1 - The Whole Armour of God - Ephesians 6:11-24.

1. Name the pieces of offensive armour.
2. Name the defensive armour.

July 8 - Rejoice That Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:1-18.

1. Consider and apply the challenge of verse 10 to your life.
2. Are you "set" for the defense of the Gospel?

July 15 - "For Me to Live Is Christ" - Philippians 1:19-30.

1. Are we like Paul; ready to live or die in the will of God?
2. Have you been homesick for heaven lately?

July 22 - Having the Mind of Christ - Philippians 2:1-11.

1. Define and apply verse 5 to our life.
2. How good are we at "confessing Jesus as Lord"?

July 29 - The Sower of the Seed - Matthew 13:2-23.

1. How well have our hearts received the seed?
2. How productive is the field of your heart for the Lord?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1990

July 1 - Mountain Climbing - Matthew 5:1-26.

1. Define Beatitudes.
2. Name the purpose and blessing of spiritual mountain climbing.

July 8 - Excuses - Gen. 3:12, Ex. 3:11, Matt. 25:24-25, Luke 14:15-20, Rom. 1:20.

1. Why do we make excuses?
2. Do excuses help or hurt us?

July 15 - Hopes - Rom. 4:18, Rom. 8:24, Rom. 15:4, I Cor. 12:12, I Pet. 3:15.

1. What are your hopes and goals for this life?
2. In Whom is your hope for eternal life?

July 22 - Ambitions - I Cor. 9:24, I Cor. 12:31, I Cor. 14:1, 12, Phil. 3:13-14, II Tim. 2:15.

1. To what are your ambitions aimed?
2. Are your goals corruptible or incorruptible?

July 29 - The Sower of the Seed - Matt. 13:2-23.

1. Of what kind of soil is your heart?
2. What things can choke the Word in our life? verse 22.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD OF THE EARTH, THE SKY, THE SEA

God of the earth, the sky, the sea,
Maker of all above, below,
Creation lives and moves in Thee;
Thy present life through all doth flow.

Thy love is in the sun-shine's glow,
Thy life is in the quickening air;
When lightnings flash and storm winds blow,
There is Thy power, Thy law is there.

We feel Thy calm at evening's hour,
Thy grandeur in the march of night,
And when the morning breaks in power,
We hear Thy word, "Let there be light."

But higher far, and far more clear,
Thee in man's spirit we behold,
Thine image and Thyself are there, —
Th' in-dwelling God, proclaimed of old.

- Samuel Longfellow

LIFE

Sometimes life seems to be cheap. We hear of random murders, shootings on the freeways or driveby shootings with no specific victim targeted. Some victims are killed for a trinket, a few cents or a cross look.

Others snuff out their own lives. They continue addictive habits that cause the ruin of the body and eventual death. Liquor, cigarettes, and drugs are the primary addictive devices but there are many others. There seems to be a disregard for others' lives and for one's own life also.

The reasons for this devaluation of human life are many and affect people in various ways. There is less regard for God, which means people, in general, value less what He has done in bringing man into the world. Many relationships in school, employment and business have become very impersonal causing people to value their own lives less. The government in dealing with people has created an attitude of subservience and a demeaning of each person's importance. Also the government, through its power to wage war, has shown that men might be considered mere cannon fodder. The government drafts a large number of men who are sent into battle often knowing that many will never return. This shows a lack of value of the individual life, although much may be said concerning patriotism.

Life is regarded lightly when God is ignored. In many lives God counts for very little. He is not a vital force in their everyday lives nor their thoughts. They think only of life in men's terms; they do not consider God's claim upon their lives. Thinking of their lives without reference to God they see no grander plan than the human,

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physical side of life. Leaving God out of their thinking they make life less than what it really is.

Life is valuable and important because God created it. The dust and elements that God used to fashion the human body are common. They have little value in their primary condition but because God combined them in this particular way they become valuable. He had created these elements out of nothing. After bringing them together He put the breath of life within that human frame, otherwise, it would have been but a lump of clay. This breath, supplied by God, makes life valuable because it is the touch of God on the earthy form of man. It makes human life worth more than the earthy components, which makes up the human body which houses that life. Knowing that God has given the breath of life makes life special because God does what is best. A life given for God's service and honor has to be valuable just because it is to be used to honor Him.

Life is valuable and important because of its connection with the eternal soul which is housed within it. The span of life given to a person is to be used to prepare for eternity. The soul is eternal. It will spend that eternity either in Heaven as God intends, or in Hell, as Satan wants it to be. During that person's lifetime the soul is present in the earthly body. During that lifetime the choices will be made and the lifestyle lived that will determine the soul's eternal destiny. This makes life valuable since this span of years will determine the soul's eternal destiny. Life may seem a short span of time compared to eternity, yet it is emphatically connected with eternity. Life may seem unimportant because it may seem rather ordinary. There may not be anything notorious or noteworthy about it, nevertheless it is of value because each life lived determines that person's eternal habitation. Whatever has a bearing on eternity has to be valuable.

Life is valuable and important because Jesus Christ died to provide a way so that life could become eternal life. Life as lived by the natural man will not please God. Men will live to please themselves and consequently will please Satan. That condition of living makes a separation between him and God. Being separated from God man cannot expect an eternal home in Heaven. Although man really deserves to be denied Heaven because of his life choices, God in His mercy has provided a way of escape from man's deserved eternal destiny. Through the substitutionary death of Jesus, the way was made. Jesus was without sin so He could offer the perfect once-for-all offering for the sins of those who are willing to accept what He has done for them. This is an individual choice for each to make. Each must choose to accept what Jesus has done or to reject it. Each has to recognize that his life is

valuable because a price has been paid for that life. The price has been paid, no matter which choice is made. So the life of each person is valuable because of the potential price paid for each one. Commodities in this world are valued by the price someone is willing to pay for them. Human life is valuable because God was willing to pay such a high price. Jesus paid the price demanded by His Heavenly Father.

Life is valuable and important for many reasons. Some have to do with the physical worth of each person but even more important are the Spiritual reasons. Not only are our lives important to our families and friends but also to God. He is interested in us because He has created us. He cares how we use our lives in preparing them for eternity. He has increased their value because of the price He was willing to pay for them.

Do we value the life of each human being as greatly as God does? Do we value our own lives as He does?

BE NOT DEFILED

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not **DEFILE** himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not **DEFILE** himself." Daniel 1:8.

DEFILE means — "To make foul, to make ceremonially unclean, to make filthy." Titus 1:15 gives a Christian, definite meaning as to the depth that **DEFILEMENT** can drag a person who does not stand for and purpose in his heart that he will not defile himself. "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are **DEFILED** and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is **DEFILED**."

Outside of Christ, we are lost. We are under the Adamic sin, in addition to our own personal sins. No sin shall enter Heaven. Therefore, we must acknowledge that we have sinned, confess to God, and be baptized for the remission of our sins. We read in II Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The Prophet Isaiah wrote, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. Once we are cleansed of our sins we are to be on our guard. I Timothy 5:22 admonishes us to, "Keep thyself pure." We are not to long for the fleshpots of Egypt. (For the world of sin.) Once cleansed of our sins, we are not to return to the filth of this world and defile ourselves again.

Five men worked in a factory, side by side. Every payday the five men stopped at a saloon, to have their checks cashed and to drink liquor. The bartender was always prepared for them, with the same five stools in a row at the bar. This went on for a long time. One day one of the five men attended a revival. He came under conviction and was baptized. The next payday, his stool was empty. He proposed in his heart that he no longer was going to DEFILE his body with more liquor. He was definitely through with drinking. His buddies could not understand why he did not go to the same excess of riot, as they continued therein.

We have many scriptures in the Old and New Testaments relating to DEFILEMENT. In Ezekial 20:7, we read, "Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and DEFILE not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." The worshipping of idols, smoking, drinking, sexual violations and all other carnalities defiles the body. Modern dress today (rather the lack of) is an abomination to the eyes and can lead to DEFILEMENT of the mind. I Cor. 3:17, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

God was grieved with the children of Israel. Why? Ezek. 23:38, "Moreover this they have done unto me: they have DEFILED my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths." When Jesus found people buying and selling in the temple, He drove them out. He cleansed the temple. He did not approve of His house becoming a house of merchandise. Has Christ changed His mind in this century? What about banquets, style shows, movies, raffles and so forth held frequently, today in many of our modern churches. Is that not taking a church which was dedicated for the worshipping of God, making it a house of merchandise? Is not America profaning the Sabbath day, when most places of business are wide open on the Lord's Day? Think about it.

Every individual eager to keep him or herself in God's will needs God's help. We can receive that help through the medium of prayer. In Psalms 51:10 David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart..." We need to pray the same prayer daily. The lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life leads to the defilement of our temple, (BODY). I Cor. 3:17.

To avoid defilement, we must choose who is our master, whether God or Satan. Romans 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

We are living in a day when much Satanic pressure is being put upon the Church of the Living God. He has the world cupped in his

hand. His distinct purpose is to destroy the Church which Jesus bought with His own shed blood on the cross of Calvary.

We can be thankful that the Bible instructs us that Satan is powerful, but that God ALL POWERFUL.

We are living in a time of compromise. It is common among masses of people to believe they can be a member of the Church of the living God and mingle with the world at the same time, engaging in activities contrary to God's Word. II Cor. 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, (World), and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." That is Jesus' prescription for avoiding defilement of our bodies.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, OH 44718

THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

Multitudes of the Lord's people today are living in spiritual poverty, nakedness and blindness, never realizing that God desires to give His children good gifts out of the riches of His grace. The following is a list of good gifts that your Father wants to give to all who will keep requesting them. He wants to drastically change your walk with Him. Your loving Father has provided a rich abundance to enable His children to walk in victory, joy and glory with Him. (See John 17:22) All that is needed is a sincere heart for God and diligence in prayer. If you persevere in requesting these things, you will find the most amazing things beginning to happen in your relationship with God. One word of caution: you must persevere, and you must be sincere. If you feel that you are not, ask God to give you a sincere, seeking heart, and He will gladly do it!

1. To be filled with wisdom, insight and revelation in order to know Christ better.
2. To live in the awesome view of eternity:
 - a. the hope we are called to.
 - b. the glorious riches of His inheritance in His people.
 - c. God's incredible power that raised Christ from death, and seated Him at God's right hand, now made available to believers.
3. To be strengthened with God's spirit, so that Jesus Christ is a present reality every moment of every day.
4. To be rooted deeply in love and founded securely on love, with love permeating every thought, word and action.

5. To receive power (with other believers) for grasping the vast wideness of Christ's love in order to be full of the Spirit.
6. Through wisdom, insight and understanding, to know His will for the purpose of:
 - a. living as the Lord deserves, pleasing Him in every way.
 - b. eternal results in every sort of good work.
 - c. knowing God intimately.
7. To receive the full strength of God's glorious power, resulting in tremendous endurance, patience, and the ability to joyfully give thanks.
8. To be purified by the entrance of the truth, which is God's word.
9. To be a pure instrument useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.
10. To be wise in the sight of God.
11. To lead many to righteousness.

Would you consider doing this? Take the following list of references and write the verses out on a sheet of notebook paper and put it in your Bible. Turn these Scriptures into prayers to God. Do it not only once or twice, but return to it time after time. References: Ephesians 1:17-19 and 3:14-19, Colossians 1:9-11, John 17:17, Matthew 13:23, II Timothy 2:20, and Daniel 12:3.

If we will cry out to Him for mercy, He will hear, and we will again be a people pleasing in His sight.

Brother Dean E. Shaffer

WHO SHALL STAND?

Psalms 130:3, "If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

If God held against us all the sins of our life, surely the pit of hell would be our destination. On our own there is no salvation for us, but only a hopelessness and despair in searching for a way of peace through our own efforts. God has created us in His image, that is, with an eternal soul. The scripture tells us that our sins have separated us from God. In order for us to be reunited with God the sin must be paid for and our very nature must be changed because God hates sin. In Ezekiel we are told that God will remove our stoney heart and give us a heart of flesh that is inclined toward Him. Only God can save us. We cannot save ourselves.

He provided a way by which we can be saved by sending His Son to die in our place, and to be punished for the sins that we have committed. Since Christ has already died and already risen again,

it is established that our sin, if we meet the conditions of salvation, has already been paid for. If we, then, seek the Lord and call upon Him when He is near, reject the works of evil and embrace the finished work of Jesus Christ, believe His word and be baptized for the remission of our sin, He will then be faithful to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We have this promise in scripture.

If the Lord would mark iniquities, who could stand? Is it not wonderful that our sins need not be remembered against us any more? Is it not because of Jesus that we are saved? How much, then do we need to trust Him, daily for our salvation: for the One that saved us is also able to keep us.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS?

II Timothy 2:3-4, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

I Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Ephesians 6:17, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

In one sense the thought of warfare is completely alien to the thinking of nonresistant Christians (the only kind recognized in Holy Scripture). Yet the Bible clearly teaches that we are in spiritual warfare as long as we remain in this body of flesh. As hymn writer Isaac Watts (from whom we borrowed our title) asks:

"Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the lamb?

And shall I fear to own his cause, or blush to speak his name?

Are there no foes for me to face, must I not stem the flood?

Is this vile world a friend to grace, to help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign, increase my courage Lord!

I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by thy word."

The last verse is, of course, an affirmation of the question.

The flag is the symbol of the country for which a soldier takes up arms. For this reason we oppose having a flag in our meetinghouses. Our "flag" is the cross of Jesus Christ. Yet, we do not encourage putting crosses in our meetinghouses or displayed on the outside. The cross of Christ is not a nice shiny metal or wooden piece of art. It is a blood stained rugged piece of lumber not fit for display. The fact that the cross has been misused as a

symbol for physical warfare added to the fact that we do not worship the cross, but the Lamb of God who died on the cross, are two good reasons for NOT having a cross inside or outside of our meetinghouses but hidden in our heart.

The three major enemies we face as soldiers of the cross are the world, the flesh and the devil. All three of these are tied in with the affairs of this life, which Paul warns us not to become entangled in. The soldier wears a uniform to identify himself with the country which he serves. The world has given a uniform that makes one acceptable. Although this uniform may vary in appearance it always has one thing in common. It is contrary to the teaching of Holy Scripture. While we do not believe that a plain suit has the power to give us special status in sight of God, it is the best way, we know of, to give a testimony of being a soldier of Jesus Christ. We also should be careful what we wear during the week, when most of us do not wear the plain garb. We must fight worldly entertainment and all that goes with it. To say that this is not making inroads into the plain churches, including our own Dunkard Brethren church, is to deny reality.

We have to struggle with the flesh. Perhaps some of us more than others. We desire to have a pure mind and sanctified eyes yet perhaps more than we are willing to admit, it is a greater struggle in this area than in any other. We confess this is one of our greatest weaknesses and ask your prayers that we may prove faithful. While a brother is held responsible for lusting after the flesh, our sisters should dress in such a way that attention is not called to areas where a brother may be tempted. It is sad to see a sister with a covering with cap strings and yet not properly attired. Of course Satan, the devil, our enemy, will use the world and the flesh to cause us to lose our eternal life, if we allow him to. That is why Paul encourages us to "lay hold of eternal life" by fighting the good fight of faith.

God has not left us defenseless. He has given us the whole armour of God for our protection and battle. He has given us truth for our loins, the breastplate of righteousness for our chest, the gospel of peace for our feet. (This is not to be confused with the false gospel of peace popular today which is in reality the gospel of compromise.) Then Paul says above all we are to take the shield of faith. Then we are to take the helmet of salvation. Salvation that does not include truth, righteousness, true Bible peace (first with God and then with your fellowman), and faith is not true Scriptural salvation, contrary to popular teaching and preaching. Last, but not least, He has given us the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Today it is not popular to think of Christians as soldiers or of the Bible as a sword. Religious pacifism is the direction it seems most groups are taking. It is becoming most unpopular to defend the truths of New Testament teachings. May it be our desire to "please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." To be a soldier of the cross you must "enlist" by accepting salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The Scriptural sign of being "mustered in" is trine immersion baptism. We invite you to join the "army of the Lord" today if you have not already done so.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Care of the Handicapped

This might not be the most stimulating topic to discuss, but I believe that it is very timely and important. Many of our congregations have people who experience some physical disabilities or health impairment. We love these people dearly for the special qualities they manifest but we many times have a difficult time in relating to them properly.

There is no question that a handicapped person wants to make a valid contribution to the church and the community. This person is often sensitive to the burden that they might be to others and this inhibits their activity. We need to not only "help" them physically but we also need to include them in as many activities as possible.

When working with the handicapped, we might follow some guidelines that could help in being effective in working with them.

First, we should avoid bringing undue attention to the person's limitations. When he is in a wheelchair, give him enough room to move about comfortably but not so much as to feel awkward. Don't move so far away as to isolate him.

Treat him like the others around you as much as possible. Greet the persons with the holy kiss and handshake and if he is unable to reach out to you, reach out to him.

Make a special effort to include the person in your conversations. It is often good to address questions specifically to him. If the handicap does not affect his mental capacity, he can contribute on the same level as you.

Just be yourself in his presence. If you ask him if you can assist him in any way, that is fine and, in fact, it can remove some of the barriers that might be present. NEVER be embarrassed to

associate with the handicapped person freely. Although we might not be physically handicapped, we each one have our inadequacies.

Sometimes you just need to be aware that a handicapped person is fearful of speed. Whether in a wheelchair or an elderly person that moves rather slowly, you will scare them if you move carelessly or too quickly. Many elderly people fear falls and we must be sensitive to this concern.

Whether a young person or an older adult, you have an opportunity to acquaint children with handicapped people early in life. They need to be taught courtesy and how to feel at ease in their presence. Misunderstandings almost always occur as a result of a lack of training or a lack of adequate information.

Remember the story of Mephibosheth and King David. Even though Mephibosheth was crippled, he was to receive a place of prominence. This was due to the actions of a godly King who was a man of great character. He saw the potential in this man and didn't see him as a burden.

Finally, it is important to take time to visit the handicapped. They should be invited to our homes and we should take special effort to take them places if they have no regular means of transportation. To do this is "as doing it unto Jesus." (Matt. 25:40) That should be adequate motivation.

As we develop greater sensitivity to the needs of others, we will grow in our Christlikeness and our personal joy will be increased.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1930

LEGALISM VERSUS SPIRITUALIZING

Charles M. Yearout

Legalism: "Close adherence or conformity to law; the observance of the strict letter of the law rather than its spirit." - Webster.

Spiritualization gives a spiritual meaning that often ignores the letter and teaching of God's word. There are three classes of people professing Christianity: (1) the legalist, who lives up to the strict letter of the law regardless of its deep spiritual meaning and application; (2) the spiritualizer, who spiritualizes everything regardless of the meaning and teaching of the law or word of God; (3) the believer, who accepts the law or word of God with its deep spiritual meaning and application to the life of the individual. He loves God and accepts His plan of salvation, and obeys from the

heart that form of doctrine delivered therein. His deep reverence and respect for God as his Father, and Christ as his Savior, and the Holy Spirit as his comforter and guide prompts him to consecrate his life to God's divine service. He observes the commandments laid down in the New Testament, because he loves God and submits his life to Him without reservation. The legalist is not liable to get into trouble as a law breaker, though he may be void of the spiritual intent of the law. Of the three, the spiritualizer is the worse. He ignores the letter and meaning conveyed in the law or word of God. And if one contends for the observance of all things commanded by Christ, he cries out legalism, and goes so far as to claim God and Christ do not always mean what they say. It is very evident that disobedience to God's word is not pleasing in His sight. To disobey God is rebellion against His law.

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king." (I Sam. 15:22-24).

The old Dunkard church has been charged with legalism, because she believed, taught and obeyed all the commandments in the New Testament. She earnestly contended for the observance of all things commanded by Christ in her periodicals, and from her pulpits until in recent years, and grievous departures have taken place in the church since this teaching to a large extent has ceased. A person may do all the outward commands, such as baptism, feet washing, the Lord's Supper, and so forth and receive no blessing from God for so doing, because the motive prompting the doing of these things was wrong. A person may do things that are essential and right in themselves, but receive no reward from God because of the wrong motive. This is clearly proven in the sixth chapter of Matthew in regard to alms giving, prayer and fasting. "By their fruits ye shall know them." A life dedicated to the service of God produces a fruitage to glory and honor of God. The true Christian has no need to tell his neighbors that he is a Christian; that fact will demonstrate itself in the life he lives. His honesty and uprightness, his thankfulness, his Godly walk, his separateness from the world, his humble submission to God in all things. This is the fruitage obedience to God's will yields. He obeys God in all things, because God designed that His children should obey Him. The spiritualizer, that spiritualizes away the meaning and letter of God's revealed will, lives a life of disobedience to much that God has commanded His children to do. If we live in the Spirit, we will walk in the Spirit. And the Spirit will lead us unto all truth, and the truth (Word of God) will make us free

and if the truth (Word of God) will make us free, then are we free indeed. Free from sin, free from the power and influence of the world, free from its vanities and sinful pleasures.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Golden Rule

J. H. Moore

No better rule for the family, for the church or the world, was ever laid down than the one given by the great Teacher of all teachers: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matt. 7:12). The rule has well earned the title, which stands at the head of this chapter, and were it to become general in the life and practice of men and women, in every grade of society, this world would come marvelously near being a veritable paradise. It is not a matter of treating others as they treat you. That is earthly. But treat them as you would that they treat you, under like circumstances. This is heavenly. It means honesty all around, and also means a fair chance for everybody, and a square deal for each person, whether rich or poor, great or small. The rule would settle all disputes between neighbor and neighbor, as well as between labor and capital. It would actually settle all strife between nations, and would settle the contest on every battlefield, without the loss of a man. Possibly we are not making enough of the Golden Rule. Not enough people are making it their standard in life. Not enough sermons are preached about the heaven-born rule, nor is it taught in the schools as it might be. The world over, there are plenty of rules for every line of business, and every department of life, but none of them measure up to the Golden Rule.

OBITUARY

THOMAS A. LEATHERMAN

Bro. Thomas A. Leatherman born November 17, 1903 near Burlington, West Virginia passed away April 23, 1990 in the Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, age 86 years old. He was the son of the late Richard and Ida Leatherman.

April 27, 1929 he married Mary O'Brien. They lived happily together for sixty years. To this union were born three children, a daughter Ruth Cease, Biglerville, Pennsylvania, a son James, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by a son Richard, four brothers and two sisters. There are eight grand-

children and twelve great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Early in life he was baptized into the Church of the Brethren and later became a charter member of the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, Antioch, West Virginia, where he served as a Deacon and Choister. In 1951 he and his family moved near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and attended the Walnut Grove Dunkard Brethren Church at Taneytown, Maryland.

Services were conducted April 25 at Monahan Funeral Home, Gettysburg by Elder Virgil Leatherman and Elder Emmert Shelly, at graveside Elder Frank Shaffer. Burial was at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, Gettysburg.

The family wishes to express their thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters and friends who offered prayers and sympathy cards and help in time of need and during our sorrow in the loss of our loved one.

The Leatherman Family

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation has scheduled a Revival effort beginning July 15 and ending July 22. Lord willing, Bro. Edward Johnson will be our evangelist. We invite you to come and enjoy these services with us. Pray, with us, that souls will be born into the Kingdom, and that our congregation will be strengthened in the Lord, and that we will work together for His honor.

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Our Harvest meeting will be the first Sunday of our Revivals on July 22, with Brother Tom St. John as speaker. If the Lord wills it so, our Revivals will be July 20 through 29.

Our welcome goes out to everyone to hear Brother Kenny Wilkerson who has consented to be our message bearer at the Englewood Congregation. Our prayers are that he will be endowed with Heavenly grace to feed our souls.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

BROADWATER, MARYLAND

The Broadwater Congregation plans another Revival Meeting from July 29 to August 5, 1990.

Bro. John Pepper of Carlisle, Pennsylvania will be our speaker. Come and enjoy these meetings with us and remember our small congregation in your prayers.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We are looking forward to our Revival Meetings. The Lord willing Bro. Leonard Wertz, from Kansas, will be bringing the messages, starting August 5 through August 19. Will you pray for these meetings, and attend if you can, trusting those who need the Lord will accept Him.

May 27 we enjoyed the blessings of another Lovefeast occasion. The spirit of love and the many visitors helped make an enjoyable day. We especially thank the visiting ministers who came and shared the Word of God with us, Brethren: Allen Eberly, James Kegerreis, James Eberly, Kenneth Wilkerson and Virgil Leatherman who officiated in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all for the many cards we received for our 65th Wedding anniversary. We can only thank you but know that God will bless you.

Brother and Sister Roy J. Swihart



Conversion is no repairing of the old building; but it takes all down, and erects a new structure. It is not putting on a patch. The sincere Christian is quite a new fabric, — from the foundation to the top stone, all new. He is a new man, a new creature. All things are become new. Conversion is a deep work, a heart-work; it turns all upside down, and makes a man be in a new world.

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Paul Stump
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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

APPRECIATION

Show your appreciation
To someone close today,
It could be a small gift,
Or a kind word you say.

Most folks respond to love;
It comes in various ways.
Show gratefulness daily,
Giving some words of praise.

God loves a cheerful giver —
He blesses them betimes —
Often with more close friends,
And with His love sublime.

If you cherish someone —
A neighbor or a friend —
Don't neglect to reveal
Your happiness with them.

We have a faithful friend
Who always lends an ear.
When we would talk to Him,
Our Lord is always near.

He sets the example
How we should help others,
How grateful we should be
For sisters and brothers.

- Sister Irene Stout
Rt. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

A FULL HEART

As we go through life we have many experiences. Some are happy, uplifting, edifying experiences and some are otherwise. As we meet these situations we must lean upon others often. Brothers and Sisters and friends help us to face these times and to make us better for the experience.

When we have had these experiences we are left with a full heart. A heart full of love and thankfulness that is often beyond our power to express verbally. We try to say what our hearts, minds and souls feel but we fail. Often tears come and choke the words we had thought we would speak. These times, when our hearts are full are times when we are drawn very close to those who have helped us in our need.

The help others extend to us can take many different forms. The need of one time demands a different response than a need at another time. There is a time when words and counsel will answer the need but other times more direct action is needed.

James instructs that when food and clothing is needed mere words of encouragement are not appropriate. He also tells us that pure religion goes beyond preaching and worship but includes action to relieve the needs of those less fortunate. Nevertheless we should remember that social action that does not have a basis in a relationship with God is but mere human works and has no eternal value. Our social activity must be the result of God's love shown to us in the forgiveness of our sins and our desire that others might have the same joy.

Physical help can take many forms. It may be in making arrangements so we can be together in family gatherings or in

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Church Conferences. It may involve help in traveling from one place to another. It can be meals and lodging as we journey and visit one another. Help may be in the form of professional services given freely or at reduced rates. Others provide help by supplying the needs at worship services and special services, when ministers and singers and other talents are needed to make these services an honor to God and joy to those who participate. Providing food and other necessities may be the appropriate help in other situations. The help given may take many forms. But whatever form it takes, those who receive it are left with a full heart and an inability to really express themselves.

While we acknowledge our full hearts due to the consideration shown us by our families, friends and fellow Christians we should have no less gratitude toward our Heavenly Father. We must remember that He is far better able to meet our needs than our fellow travelers on life's pathway. He understands us and our needs better than our closest friends. It is by His prompting that the help given by others is given. He knows our needs and He knows how best to meet those needs.

He has given to us that which no human could supply. He has given life. He has known us from the time of conception through birth and throughout our life on this earth. As physical life has come from Him so does Spiritual life. In the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ, He has drawn the plan of salvation that is available for our acceptance or rejection. He wants us to accept. He does not want His Gift to have been given in vain.

By his Spirit He has been able to give us a new life and a new mind that we should want to live as would please Him. He has given a new direction to our lives. If we are apt enough to follow His direction in our lives we can serve Him and we can prepare ourselves here for the eternal mansions prepared for us in Heaven.

As we consider all these things and many others that come to us from God, our hearts should be very full. We should be willing to tell others that we have a God who has known us and provided for us throughout our lives both physically and Spiritually.

We should be thankful for those who, being inspired by God, are willing to extend various favors and blessings upon us. As we reflect upon the efforts of others in our behalf our hearts should be very full.

Is your heart ever full from the favor shown you by others? Can you make the hearts of others full?

MIRACLES OF CALVARY

Part I

Heaven and earth joined in attesting the climactic moments of redemption of people of every age and era, who read and believe and obey God's Word and accepts His plan of salvation.

We want to consider four miracles that transpired at the time of the Crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1. THE MIRACULOUS DARKNESS

In Luke 23:44-45 we read, "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour (12:00 N to 3:00 P.M.). And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst."

At this time Jesus was suspended on the cross. This darkness was not an eclipse, as some theologians contend. No eclipse darkens all the earth at the same time. Besides, the time was full moon, making an eclipse impossible.

The sun darkened. It was not the absence of the sun, as at night. This darkness was for a distinct purpose. This was the darkness of Calvary, which blanketed or smothered the brightness of the sun, at high noon. **WHAT IMPRESSION THIS DARKNESS MUST HAVE MADE! WHAT AN AWESOME EXPRESSION OF THE MIGHTINESS OF GOD!**

WHAT A MOMENTOUS TIME AT GOLGOTHA. Christ audibly interceding for His crucifiers. Responding to the cry of a dying thief, giving special recognition to His mother and His beloved disciple, John, executing His last will and testament for her.

Can you visualize the scene? Soldiers watching, mocking, dividing. Priests, rulers, multitudes passing by, wagging, railing and reviling the Son of God. God put an end to that scene by causing this great darkness over the land. The crowds are silent now, transfixed and fearful.

What was this darkness? It was a visible suspension of the precise order of nature. The giver of LIGHT withdrew it. This darkness was designed and timed exclusively to the death of Christ.

It was to call all Heaven's witness to this sacred event, to alert all mankind to what was happening. There stood the cross, Christ suspended there-on. The darkness was God's way of authenticating the death of Christ, to become the Saviour of the world.

It was the method God chose to prove to those who opposed Christ when they said, "Show us a sign from Heaven." This darkness was a positively timed sign from Heaven. The very frame

of the universe bent in reverential obeisance to the Son of God at the place of a skull.

It proved Jesus true to His calling, as Saviour and Redeemer. Did He over-play His calling? No! This great phenomenal darkness called all humanity, to behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.

The darkness symbolizes the inconceivable suffering of Christ, in His ignominious death. He was smitten of God. God was laying on Him, the iniquity of us all. It was too horrible for the human eye to view. It even appears as though God Himself did not want to view His Son's death. When Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me." He must have felt forsaken by all humanity, and by God, His Father.

The brutal punishment prior to the crucifixion God permitted to be viewed, as He was smitten by man. God did not permit the human eye to witness God's smitting Him, nor to see Christ's superlative anguish.

At His miraculous birth, He brought joy to the world. Night became light. At the horrible crucifixion, light became night. TRULY THIS DARKNESS WAS A MIRACULOUS DARKNESS.

2. THE MIRACULOUS RENDING OF THE VEIL

It was not an earthquake which rended the veil. How could the veil be rent in two without destroying the temple? It was another miracle performed by God Almighty.

Notice the scripture as recorded by Matthew 27:51, "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" Another way of God calling the attention of man-kind to the dying Son of God, our Saviour.

The veil of the temple was the veil of the tabernacle, perpetuated. The peoples approach to God, because of the veil, was imperfect, in that the outer court was closed and shut off from the Holy Place by means of the veil. But now, through the rending of the veil, this division or separation ceases to exist.

The Temple was not destroyed when the veil was. No authorized hand interfered with it. It did not fall due to age and wear. It was rent in two pieces only as Luke 23:45 says, "... in the midst (or middle). Thus opening in the center and revealing what it was designed to conceal.

This took place at exactly and precisely the same time Christ died on the cross. Just at that instant, as if a sharp blade had cut down the middle of the veil, all concealment of the Holy of Holies was revealed forever.

Notice that Jesus expired at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at the very beginning of the evening sacrifice.

To be continued
Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, Ohio 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Focus on the Family"

We would like to "focus on the family" in this issue. The health of this unit as well as the restoration of the injured family should be very much on our minds. Without strong homes, we will never have a strong church. Love learned at home carries right over into the Body of Christ.

It is interesting that we often think how materialism has violated our homes. But, we mostly see that only in relation to things. Materialism is really more a way of looking at life in general. It is a philosophy. It is living life by gratification of the five senses. It is de-emphasizing the qualities of love, hope, loyalty, honesty, truth, ideals and faith and placing a self-centered, destructive spirit of independence ahead of them. And this is the great enemy of the family. Satan destroys the family when people's thinking and mind-set becomes worldly and self centered.

God gave explicit instruction on making a family successful and unified. The first lesson was to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6) Then we are taught, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother;..." (Eph. 6:1-4).

Independence begins to develop early in life. That little child that looks like such an angel lying in the crib sleeping will rapidly become a rebel by nature. (Isa. 48:8) Genetic, environmental and behavioral influence will affect his development. To understand this is to know that training actually begins when the child enters the womb and continues in the very early years of life. It does not begin at age six! In the very early years, the personality is formed. Life in general becomes a teaching ground. The character and personality are formed in these early years and in reality, subsequent learning is just framing the embellishment on the foundation received at this time. Certainly this should teach us the absolute importance of the training given in the first six years. What happens in the past is not in the past. It affects us always. Even in our spiritual life, we are not so much interested in what happened in our first few moments of existence as a Christian but what kind of automatic patterns of response we have built into our lives.

We can understand that if a child of two or three falls and breaks their leg, and it does not mend well because it was not set properly, the child might experience a limp all the rest of his life. This is also true of the mental and spiritual side of life. "As the twig is bent, so the tree grows."

There needs to be much physical affection in the home. As a Christian family, we should know that there is healing in physical embraces. In fact, I have read that a sleeping baby breathes many little sighs because he has been "wounded" and needs to be held and loved and comforted. A child cannot survive well emotionally without embraces and love. He needs gentle touches that train his spirit to reach out and receive and also to give back love and affection. The very capacity to relate to others is many times formed in the first few months of life. I believe we can see that the home that is devoid of parental care in these formative years or is broken by divorce can only bring about a generation of inhumane and incapable youth and adults.

If a child receives continual warmth and affection, joy is formed in the soul. Neglect and abuse in this area cripples the child. We are not animals. If we were cows, we could learn to moo even without the mother or another cow there. If we are kittens, we would mew or puppies, we would bark. But a human infant cannot learn to talk unless he is talked to. Similarly, we can't acquire the sensitivities and skills needed for proper human interaction without being nurtured as a child. The better the nurturing, the better the quality of the character and personality. We literally learn to love.

In the Word we learn, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us." (1 John 4:10) This is true psychologically also. If we do not first receive love, we can't give it. If someone is not home with a child training him to love, then he will become a part of the materialistic culture. The child senses this spirit.

It would seem that in our materialistic culture, most dads are not aware of the role they were created to fulfill in the lives of their children. The actions and attitudes of the father form the character of the child. Little girls learn how to embrace a man or shut him out depending on their relationship with their father. A boy learns what it is to be a man by watching his father. Many habitual unconscious practices in a child come from watching their fathers. How very important both parents are.

Individuality and basic trust in personal actions comes from the working together of both parents. Teens who have to be a part of the "gang" and who are not secure in themselves are often the product of a family without proper mother-father care at home. To "individuate" is an important quality to instill in a child that they

might stand effectively alone for the Lord and deny the trappings of the gang culture.

As a parent with children... be a present to them. Hold them, touch them, read to them, play with them, pray with them... "for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow."

Brother Len Wertz

UNITY OR DIVISION?

Luke 12:51-53, "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law." (Jesus Christ)

I Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement."

How can the Apostle Paul invoke the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to call for unity in place of division when Christ clearly taught that he came to bring division? We believe if we can come to an understanding of what the Lord Jesus Christ was speaking of and what Paul was referring to we will eliminate much of the present confusion within the earthly church. We do not claim any special wisdom or revelation on this subject. We desire the leading of the Holy Spirit and admit our human weakness.

First of all, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ brings division. To declare yourself a Christian divides you from all of the other religions in the world. The modern ecumenical spirit that would have us join hands and hearts with all of the religions of the world is the spirit of the antichrist. For we read in I John 4:3, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

This verse from I John also brings division within Christendom. To "confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh" includes the teaching and truth of the virgin birth and the deity of Jesus Christ. We can have no fellowship with those who deny that Jesus Christ is God the Son as well as the only begotten Son of God!

There is also another division that the Lord Jesus Christ brings into the earthly church. This is the division between those who are

willing to follow all that He has taught us both in the Gospels and through the writings of the apostles and those who try to explain these truths away or relegate them to a time past or future. This is a sad division and one that brings forth emotion and soul searching. We believe we can go from one extreme to another in this area. We can decide that our little group is the only true church on earth or we can refuse to boldly stand for the truths of Holy Scripture that is a part of our rich heritage as Anabaptist-Pietists. Are these truths a part of our salvation? We believe only the Lord God Almighty has the final answer to that question. But we have the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in John 13:17, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." He said this concerning feet washing which along with such things as the prayer veil and refusal to wear jewelry is ridiculed by the majority of those who call themselves Christians. If we are not truly happy following those things we know to be true we had better do some soul searching.

We now come to the words of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians. We are to have unity in those things which we have named that bring division. We believe that it is truly a sad situation that many of the things which once brought unity are now causing division. The popular teaching that we can have unity in the midst of division is not to be found within Holy Scripture. We have to honestly ask ourselves what brings division into our fellowship. The answer is obvious. It is change of practice and convictions. As we have stated before, this is not an easy area to deal with. We wish that everything could be put into neat little boxes, so to speak, but that is not easily accomplished. We confess that it is all too easy to rejoice over a change which is to our benefit while feeling consternation over a change which we disagree with. One of the questions we have to honestly ask ourselves is, who is promoting the changes which we desire? Is it the same individuals who ridicule our historical Brethren faith and the practices? If this is the case, we should be very careful in accepting such change.

While we realize that it is not always humanly possible, we should desire that "there be no divisions among you." The only scriptural reason for a division is if the group decides to have fellowship with an antichrist spirit. This would include joining such organizations as the World and National Council of Churches. We pray our Dunkard Brethren will never make such a move and we do not discern any such thinking among us. God's desire is for us to "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." May we strive for this goal.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

A MAN IS POOR....

If he is without friends,
If he has no ideals,
If he has a guilty conscience,
If he has lost his self-respect,
If his morals are questionable,
If he is selfish, uncharitable or cruel,
If his mind and soul have been neglected,
If his wife and family do not love and respect him,
If he has a disagreeable disposition that makes enemies and repels his friends,
If making money has crowded out the cultivation of his spiritual life,
If all his investments and possessions are laid up on earth and he has no treasures in heaven.

Selected by Sister Martha Shaffer

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1930

IT IS A PERSONAL MATTER

Grant Mahan

Our religion is. Whether it is to do us any good at all depends entirely on ourselves. We can help each other in some ways, but no one can believe for me, no one can keep my heart for me; I must do it, or it will not be done. It is a strictly personal matter.

Our family can be a great help to us, but the final decision is with each of us; neither father or mother, however much they love us and would like to help us, can take our place. Their religion will not suffice for them and us also.

Not even our church can answer for us, though it may be a very great help to us in our efforts to do the Lord's will while we are here.

Aside from Jesus there can be no mediator, no intercessor before the Father, no one who can bear our weaknesses and our sins. Only the application of his blood will cleanse us from our sins.

And yet we so often seem not to realize that it is thus with us. We fail to obey the directions which he laid down for all who would follow him into life eternal. And we become so hardened in our course that it does not affect us to make us repent when we know we have gone wrong, and must get back to the right road to have peace.

We stand too far off; we feel too much our own righteousness, forgetting that it is but filthy rags in the sight of God. "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand."

It is just here that we need to be most careful, for man is prone to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. As a rule, we deceive ourselves more easily than others deceive us. Had there not been this tendency in man, Paul would not have given the warning he did, nor would Jesus have said that he who exalts himself will be abased. We need not fear outside enemies, for we have a protector more powerful than any of them. But as soon as we begin to trust in ourselves instead of him to whom we profess to have committed ourselves, then we have opened the door for the worst enemy that mankind has to contend against.

We are not wise when we compare ourselves among ourselves and feel proud that we are not as other men. And when we are not wise we are most certainly foolish. And the foolish have no promise of anything that is desirable, neither in this world nor in that which is to come.

Though we cannot but know that the Lord has in his love for man given him wonderful powers, yet they are limited to the things of this world and are given only for a short and very uncertain length of time. We need to remember that all we have is given us, or lent to us, with the obligation of using it for the benefit of the one who gave or loaned it; and also we need to bear in mind that he will come in such a time as we think not of his coming, and will demand settlement; he will want his own and the increase. To use for selfish purposes what has been entrusted to us for the use of the giver is not wise, and will not be commended when the time of final accounting comes round.

Our religion is a personal matter; and it is or should be the most important matter in our lives. It is easy, and common, for men to be deceived by others; it is easier and more common for men to deceive themselves. We cannot too much emphasize the fact that we have only one reliable source of instruction as to the manner in which to use our time and talents; nor can we too often consider our actions, comparing what we know we should have done, so as to make the necessary changes in our actions. Each day should be summed up; delay is not safe.

MAKING OTHERS FEEL WELCOME

"Using hospitality one to another without grudging." I Peter 4:9.

Over the years in my experience with plain churches I have never seen too many visitors come in from the world. This is unfortunate.

I have read many accounts of meetings, especially lovefeasts, where worldly people not only filled the meetinghouse, but surrounded the outside of the building as well. People were curious about the Brethren and sought them out with interest. But this was a hundred years or more ago. Why the change? Many would quote the scripture about the falling away of the last days. Though that answer has some merit, I believe there is more to it. I believe that some of it is our fault. Maybe one of the reasons could be that we do not make others feel welcome. If we thoroughly believe that what we are preaching is the true gospel, and that the life we are living is the true Christian life, would it not be prudent and just to share this confidence with others? It is true that some of us are just naturally shy and do not warm up to strangers. But most of us have to deal with the public daily at our jobs, so we have no excuse. It does not take much effort on our part to shake hands and say hello, but very few do even that. I know this because I have been to many meetings in our own brotherhood and have seen the behaviour of the brethren in these matters. In some denominations the preacher walks to the back of the building and greets everyone at the end of a worship service. At least strangers, in this case, are greeted by someone. We all have friends and loved ones that we enjoy talking to at the end of a worship service. This is fine, but put yourself in the shoes of someone who knows no one there. Does not our compassion for the souls of men and our need for Christian fellowship reach out to them? How important it is to make a person feel welcome. Because of it they may return someday and be saved.

I spoke to a minister in a plain church once regarding going out and seeking the lost. He told me he does not do much of that because divorced people may come in and he would not be able to handle that. He would not know how to deal with them. All of us are this way to a certain degree, sad to say. If we ignore them, maybe they will go away. Then we will not have to deal with them. But the fact is that everyone is a living soul for whom Christ died.

What then is our obligation to the world? Christ had compassion for Jerusalem, even though His people had rejected Him. We must treat all people as having the potential to be Christians. Likewise we should welcome all Christians warmly into our worship services, for are we not all a part of the Body of Christ? How do we treat other members? Do we look down on certain ones, taking pride in our own situation, or do we treat all brethren alike? We should all examine ourselves that no reproach comes upon the gospel of Christ and the profession of our beloved fraternity.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE DAY OF HIS VISITATION

There was once a remarkable group of God's people. They had many outstanding points. Following the divine pattern laid down in the Bible was the center of their lives. Few groups have ever outdone their zeal to follow the Lord in every detail.

Following every command, whether small or great, was gravely important among them. Most of them memorized huge portions of Scripture. The original languages were carefully considered. Virtually all of them became experts. They were well-known for strict obedience to God's Word.

To become a member required strong personal commitment. People made remarkable sacrifices to join. Intense zeal marked their ranks. They appealed to those tired of the lukewarmness and lack of commitment in most other cities. Here at last was a band of people that really followed the Scriptures, willing to walk in radical obedience.

Intense efforts were launched to reach the lost. Members would tirelessly evangelize without regard to personal cost. They were a success! Membership was committed and increasing; influence was on the rise. They were even making a strong impact on their communities.

In that region, the Lord raised up a young preacher. He had come to a profound understanding of God's heart; the Holy Spirit had unveiled the truth to him.

The Lord led him into a ministry sweetly anointed by the Holy Spirit. Many street people, delinquents and outcasts repented and began to deeply love the Lord. His popularity in the region grew, and God used him mightily. There were healings, and a few people were even raised from the dead.

He infuriated the group's leaders, however, by refusing to follow their understanding of the Bible. He even spoke against some of their teachings that seemed clearest in the Scriptures. The anointing of God was clearly with him, yet he so went against the grain of their understanding. To most, he was clearly a fraud, or even devil-inspired. How could he be a servant of God?

By rejecting the young preacher, they rejected God's personal visitation in human form. You see, the group was the Pharisees, and the young preacher was Jesus.

Many characteristics of the Pharisees were actually excellent. They believed in strong commitment, zeal, the importance of God's word, and reaching the lost. All of these are essential truths. However, they refused to consider that God would use someone so drastically different from them. In so doing, they missed the

visitation of God himself to their generation. Pride and exclusiveness had closed their hearts to the Spirit of God.

Would it not be wise to learn from their mistakes so we do not miss the day of visitation.

Brother Dean Shaffer

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Holiness

J. H. Moore

Holiness and purity go together. Without the one the other will not exist. "Holiness unto the Lord," is one of the cardinal doctrines of the New Testament. We are told to "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). This being true, there is no salvation in heaven for the man or the woman who does not follow after holiness. But, notice how the Lord speaks to his people, personally: "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). The reason for holiness is that God is holy, and only the holy can see God. Hence, in I Thess. 5:27, we read about "all the holy brethren." Holy people engage in "holy conversation and godliness" (II Peter 3:11).

Holiness unto the Lord leads up to the higher attainments in Christ Jesus. It means the ideal spiritual life, — the life that strives to rise above all that is unholy, impure and unclean. It is the ennobling and purifying quality in the Christian's make-up that places him in close, personal communion with the great Divine. This plane of living, however, is reached by the way of faith and obedience. Only those who have implicit faith in Jesus Christ, and keep his sayings, can claim the holiness so highly emphasized in the New Testament. Those who set aside the plain commandments, enjoined in the teachings of the Master and his disciples, have no Gospel claim whatever to holiness. The doctrine presupposes faithfulness in all things, and only those who are loyal to the Gospel can justly lay claim to holiness in the Lord. Men and women, who set up the claim of personal holiness without any regard whatever to the plain teachings of the New Testament, not only deceive themselves, but they may deceive others. Holiness and obedience go hand in hand.

MARRIAGE

COOK - MANUEL

Sis. Susan Rebecca Cook, the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Milton Cook of Beaumont, California was united in marriage with Rudolfo

Rudy Manuel, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Adams of San Diego, California on June 30, 1990. They were married at the Mountain Avenue Baptist Church, Banning, California by Elder Milton Cook. They are making their home at 530 Graves Avenue, Apt. #17, El Cajon, California 92020.

NEWS ITEMS

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their revivals to begin August 5, with Bro. Paul Hartz. They will close on August 19. Sunday evening services will begin at 7:00 and weeknights at 7:45. We cordially invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Wishes to announce their annual revival services August 18 to August 26 with Bro. Allen Eberly of the Lititz Congregation as evangelist. Saturday, August 25, 3 P.M. Examination service, 7 P.M. Lovefeast. Evening services each evening 7:30 P.M.; Fellowship dinner, Sunday, August 26 following services. We appreciate your presence, and your prayers. Time is quickly drawing to a close, it is later than we think. The harvest truly is ripe, but the laborers are few. We pray that this will be a time of true spiritual reviving from the Lord. Please remember Swallow Falls in 1990.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

CARD OF THANKS

I want to thank all the Brethren and Sisters and kind friends for prayers and get well cards in behalf of our loved one during his illness and for the many cards, letters and flower arrangements and visits since his home going and especially for the many prayers in our behalf. It eases the load when we know others care. Thanks again and may the Lord bless each one and keep us faithful to the end.

In Christian love,
Sister Della Ebling

THANK YOU

We want to thank all who sent us cards and letters of encouragement for our 60th Anniversary. They were all appreciated very much. God bless you all!

Brother Newton and Sister Elma Jamison

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1990

August 5 - God Working in You - Philippians 2:12-20.

1. How do we "work out our salvation"? verse 12.
2. How does God work in our life to do His will? verse 13.

August 12 - "That I May Win Christ" - Philippians 3:1-11.

1. How much value did Paul place on his past "religious doings"?
2. What is it to be "found in Christ"?

August 19 - Pressing Toward the Mark - Philippians 3:12-21.

1. Name some things we need to forget and leave behind.
2. What goal are we really pressing toward?

August 26 - Rejoice in the Lord - Philippians 4:1-10.

1. When are we to rejoice in the Lord?
2. How well do your thoughts fit verse 8?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1990

August 5 - The Candles - Matt. 5:14-16, Mark 4:21, Luke 11:33-36.

1. Where can your candle be found?
2. How would the Lord describe your flame - a feeble flicker or a radiant flame?

August 12 - The Mustard Seed - Matt. 13:31-32, Mark 4:30, Luke 13:19.

1. How is God's Kingdom like a mustard seed?
2. Why does God compare our faith to a mustard seed? Matt. 17:20.

August 19 - The Salt - Matt. 5:13, Luke 14:34-35, Mark 9:49-50.

1. Name some qualities of salt and relate them to our lives.
2. Are you scattering your salt or is it still in the "shaker"?

August 26 - Opportunities - Matt. 9:37, Matt. 26:40-41, I Cor. 16:1-11.

1. How do opportunities and responsibilities relate? Luke 12:48.
2. Have you been faithful to your God-given opportunities? I Cor. 4:2.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

AUGUST 1, 1990

NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HAPPY THE CHURCH

Happy the church, thou sacred place,
The seat of thy Creator's grace;
Thine holy courts are his abode,
Thou earthly palace of our God.

Thy walls are strength, and at thy gates,
A guard of heav'nly warriors waits;
Nor shall thy deep foundation move,
Fixed on his counsels and his love,

Thy foes in vain designs engage;
Against thy throne in vain they rage;
Like rising waves with anger roar,
That break and die upon the shore.

Then let our souls in Zion dwell,
Nor fear the wrath of earth and hell;
His arms embrace this happy ground,
Like brazen bulwarks build around.

God is our shield, and God our sun,
Swift as the fleeting moments run,
On us he sheds new beams of grace,
And we reflect his brightest praise.

- Isaac Watts

GOING TO CHURCH

We live in a land that once was noted for its religious values. Unfortunately, today, many, especially the young, have little or no knowledge of the Bible or what it means to attend a church service. As each generation becomes more and more unchurched, the next generation becomes even more separated from God and godly values. As we see this decline in Spiritual interest, we also see through activities of young and old, alike, the immorality and self-centeredness of society today.

Going to church is more than just physically entering the church house and sitting through the service. In fact the early Brethren cried out against church attendance because it had become an empty ritual. People went because they were forced to by political and social pressure. Often there was little of value for them to receive when they did attend, because there was little Spiritual teaching or practice.

Despite the possibility of abuse, attendance at worship services is still important and needful. The writer to the Hebrews spoke of the harmful habit of some who avoided attending those services. If the New Testament recognizes the need for attendance then certainly we should recognize the same need as an aid to our Spiritual lives.

There are several reasons why we go to church. There are social reasons which are not totally wrong, but if Church attendance is but a social event, then it has lost its true meaning. Others may go either to see or to be seen. It may be out of curiosity concerning whether certain other people will be there or not. Others want to be seen at church because it makes a good appearance for their

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business, social or political lives. If these are the reasons that dictate attendance at Church, then there is a need for a change of reason. The person who attends church with a sincere heart does it for good reasons. Their attendance will be a witness to their family, friends and neighbors that their Lord is more important to them than any other consideration. They do not become involved in Sunday work or business. They do not allow family or friends to keep them away. Their minds are made up from one week to the next that they will be in Church each Sunday morning. This is their habit.

Attending Church is a season of worshipping God. God can be worshipped anytime, anywhere, but the time of public service provides a time when a person can separate himself from the hectic world. He can enter an environment that is conducive to worship and meditation. His normal activities may impinge upon that time unless he clearly chooses to set this time apart.

This time of worship may be very private even in the midst of a crowd. Yet one of the benefits of worship at church is fellowship with those who have a like mind and faith. It is good to know there are others who also desire to worship God and live for Him, so we do not have to stand alone. Others confirm our faith and increase our courage. Most of the practices of the church are group oriented. There is a need for more than one when participating in the ordinances and practices of the Church. By participating together individuals are drawn together into a group of compatible worshippers and servers of God.

Church services provide a time of teaching and learning. Whether there is a formal Bible Study or not, the Bible is the text book of the Church. Each through study and listening to the preached word can learn more about the Bible, its teachings and its Author. While preaching may be frowned upon and joked about by the world, it is the method ordained by God for proclaiming His Word. With the power of the Spirit directing the spoken Word there is power in that method, however the material is delivered it will prove beneficial to the Christian in guiding him into ways pleasing God.

The various ordinances God has given His people tie together the fellowship, witness, teaching and worship aspects of church attendance. Those activities serve to draw our minds to heavenly truths which foster our worship of God and bring us into fellowship with one another as we jointly participate.

The person who does not attend church misses much, because it is the primary place where the way of salvation is proclaimed and made available. It is the place where the Christian is able to serve

and be served. It is the place where he can learn much and share much. It is a great loss when he does not attend, his and others.

Attend church so you can be helped and you can help others.

1990 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Mark Andrews opened. Hebrews 13. Let brotherly love continue. We must establish love in our hearts. Remember those who have the rule over you. The ministers of God will help you with their messages. You and I are under the new law. We must follow Christ. The goal of Christians to follow Christ's teachings. Pray and have a good conscience and open heart and mind.

Bro. Terry Gunderman. Exodus 25:10-22. The Ark of the Covenant. We have nothing to fear today. We have the promise of Eternal Life if we walk in the Spirit of the Lord. We must be bound in the Spirit. We must be faithful, raised up in the Spirit of the Lord. Christ wants us to follow His teachings. We don't have to walk in the flesh because we can walk in the Spirit. People of this day are not walking in the Spirit of Christ. Too many are walking in the flesh and after sinful things. We must honestly contend for the faith. Satan takes no joy in us following the Lord. The New Age movement is dwelling on self. This is the power of Satan. Allow the Word of God to continue with you. Satan knows the power of God. Through all of Job's suffering he stayed with God and did not give up. He did not lose his integrity. We need to be consumed in the Holy Word that the Holy Scriptures will come to us daily. We are bound in the Spirit, knowing the Word of God.

Bro. Tom St. John. Deuteronomy 15:17. Ear Pierced Christians. Are you an Ear Pierced Christian? A servant is not free to do as he wants. A servant must serve his master in the master's house. In the New Testament Christ is our servant and God is our Father. We could have a full commitment of Christ but yet we might have lost that first love of Christ. Christ suffered on the cross for you and me. He had that love for you and me. We love Him because He first loved us.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson closed. We must be bound in the Spirit so we can work for the Lord. Our first thought should be of God. We will hear a lot of truths from the Holy Word through these meetings. Are we going to forget them?

Saturday Evening.

Elder William Carpenter opened. Psalms 1:33. They continued in prayer as in Acts.

Elder Harley Flory. Ephesians 6:10. Be Strong in the Lord. There is a difference in being strong in the Lord and being strong for the Lord. We need the prayers of each other. The Disciples were strong for the Lord. Let us be strong in the Lord. There is a strong responsibility for each one of us to be strong in the Lord. The three Hebrew children were strong for the Lord. Moses was a man of God. He lead the children of Israel to the promised land. He sinned against God and was not able to enter in the promised land himself.

Elder Milton Cook closed. We praise the message we have just heard. Be strong in the Lord.

Sunday A.M.

Elder Allen Eberly opened. I Samuel 4:9, I Corinthians 16:13. The Church needs workers for the Lord. Watch ye, "Stand fast in the faith."

Elder John Pepper. Deuteronomy 1:6. Ye have dwelt long enough on this mount. Are we going to be overcomers? It takes a lot of faith. Do you have the Spirit to witness for the Lord? If you're thirsty, nothing will satisfy but that everlasting life. When Christ writes His laws within your heart you will make a change in your life. Some people say in this world God is dead. No, God is not dead. It is good for us to do everything in the Lord. Open up your hearts and allow the Lord to work in your life. If God isn't speaking to your heart you are backsliding.

Elder Paul Hartz. Ephesians 6:13. Heaven is cheap at any cost. God gave His only Son on Calvary. What did our redemption cost us? Jesus paid it all for us. The cost to God was phenomenal. If God would not have given His Son we would have been lost. There is no such thing as cheap grace. We should be very humble for the Lord. We dare not dabble in the worldly things. We need obedience of the Lord. The Holy Word means what it says. If you do as the Holy Word says and know these things, happy are you when you do them. The ordinances are all in the Bible and that's why we practice them in our Church. A good conversion causes us to hate all sins of the world. We need a strong change for the good. Let's keep the faith.

Elder Jacob Ness closed. The Lord will open up the way for us. Will we follow Him.

Sunday P.M.

Bro. Lloyd Lorenz opened. James 1:22-25. Why did you come to this meeting? What was your expectations? Do you have expectations upon yourself? Can we gather something we have heard that will help us in our every day life?

Elder James Kegerreis. Psalms 127-128. Our Heritage. We should be obedient to the Word. We should be in a business that

would be pleasing to God. Teach a child the way he should go and he will not depart from it when he is old. What is Hell? It is something as sure as Heaven. Hell is that great torment ever lasting for sinful people.

Elder Dennis St. John. Jeremiah 1:11. What Seest Thou. We live in a world of change. The Apostle Paul said, "Let a man examine himself." The Holy Word says preach the Word. Our homes need to be stable. We should be careful that the world's changes do not come upon us. We should stand for our faith in the Lord. We should be careful of changes that creep into the Church. Do we have the courage and will we be what we should in our lives? The Christian battle is self sacrifice. May the Lord give us the courage to face the task before us as we go on.

Elder Dale Jamison closed. Two things we must do. Make a living and live a good Christian life.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

MIRACLES OF CALVARY

Part 2

2. THE MIRACULOUS RENDING OF THE VEIL (Continued)

Jesus expired at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the time of the very beginning of the evening sacrifice. The Priests were in their place of duty fully engaged in their work which was secretive to the Temple worshippers. As the veil was rent, how strange they must have felt being exposed for all to view.

How useless their services now. From now on, no longer and for no purpose would the High Priests carry behind the veil the blood of the atonement. From the rending of the veil to the present and until the end of time Jesus becomes a Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. Heb. 5:6.

The unbroken secrecy of the Holy of Holies was now at an end. The Order of Priests has now been done away with. We can go directly to the Throne of God, through Christ, our High Priest God ceased to be screened off from His people.

This miracle destroyed the middle wall of partition between Jews and Gentiles. It threw open the chamber of God to all people. Now, the way is open for man's approach to Salvation. By faith we have the boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He hath consecrated for us, through the rending of the veil, that is to say His flesh. Heb. 10:19-20.

3. THE MIRACLE OF THE EARTHQUAKE

The shaking of the earth was at the instant of Christ's death. Jesus yielded up the ghost... and the earth did quake and the rocks rent. The rocks were not merely cracked or lined, but so strewn around that the rock tombs were left uncovered. It was shaking of the earth of no trifling magnitude. It was of such powerful force that the Roman soldiers feared greatly.

This earthquake was a supernatural event, ordered by God. It was caused solely by His act. It was not caused by the cooling of the earth. It was a miracle, wrought to alert humanity, that the powers of God were manifested at the death of His Son.

In proof, let us consider some coincidences of the earthquake. It coincided with the death of Christ. It was one of a number of miracles just as supernatural as the darkness and the rending of the veil.

Its immediate antecedent was the shout of victory from the cross. It was not the internal fires of the earth cooling which caused the earth to tremble. It was a notification that the plan of redemption was completed. It was God's endorsement of the accuracy of the prophets who foretold these events, long before they occurred.

It was Calvary's answer back to Sinai. There sin was called sin and there the law was given.

Here atonement was made for sin. The earthquake at Calvary was answering back to the earthquake at Sinai, of which we read, "There were thunderings and lightings, and a thick cloud upon the mount."

Sinai was the prophecy of Calvary. Calvary was the fulfillment of Sinai. Sinai was the sinner's wretchedness, ruin and penalty. Calvary provided the sinner's recovery and salvation. It was the sinner's hope and blessedness. Sinai was God's voice of condemnation. Calvary was God's fatherly love of, and voice of pardon and peace.

If the redemption of man is as real as man's sin, should not the earth feel its affects?

4. THE MIRACLE OF THE OPENED GRAVES

This miracle has a very distinct place of its own. The earthquake opened the graves. These graves were rocky tombs, with doors of stone. The rending of the rocks was evidence of force. The opening of the graves were evidence of design. It was the graves of the saints that were opened, indicative of the coming Resurrection.

What was the symbol of the opened graves? They symbolized the power of God to render asunder all obstructions to the resurrection when that morning comes. Graves, mounts, rock

doors, cemented vaults, metal caskets, and so forth, are all flimsy barriers and will all give up their occupants when the voice of God calls.

At Christ's death, the penalty of sin was done away with, "To whosoever accepts the plan of salvation." Of such redeeming power was the death of Christ.

John 5:25, "Verily, verily I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live."

The miracles of Calvary were so pronounced that only God Almighty could bring them about. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Re-thinking the issue of sports and the Christian

Because we are living in an age of obsession with local and professional sports and because the personalities and values of these games help to shape the values of our youth, we need to look again at their effect and influence on us.

Now, let me preface this article by saying that recreational and fellowship participation in sport activities would not tend to be harmful if they are played with the Christian spirit. We are looking at organized and competitive sports as something that seems inappropriate for the sincere Christian.

It is ironic that sports are not predominately for men and boys today. Women participate in competitive sports nearly as much as men. This is certainly not in harmony with a meek and quiet spirit. Domestic and spiritual endeavors seem too many times to take a back seat to more contemporary activities that put women in a position to experience the fighting and competitive spirit that is against their godly nature. Meekness, quietness, shame facedness are all disdained terms today and these are being replaced with loud masculine qualities. There is no question that this is the reason why so many women compete with their husbands for leadership roles in the home and in the work environment. This has partly led to the feminist movement of our day. Even the dress necessary for many of the sporting events is totally inappropriate for the Christian woman.

Sports figures are now the idols of many Christian young men. They appreciate not only their physical abilities, but their style of

life... men paid far beyond any logical reason, they create an image of influence that many young men (and those not so young) try to follow.

People are so obsessed with sports that they will miss church for them and schedule their day around sports events. This is not only on week days but also on Sunday. Modern churches set their services so as not to interfere with sports schedules, knowing that their attendance will be low if they are competing with them. It will seem that the Lord's work isn't competing well in many cases.

God is serious about having "No other god's before Him." He is also serious when He says that anything that is esteemed highly by the world is an abomination to Him. This "abomination" is the same word used when He declares that cool Christians will be spewed out of His mouth at the end of time. It may seem like God is allowing competition at this time, but there is no question that the worshipper of the sports god is going to be the loser.

Christians, competitive and professional sports are for the world. They promote carnality, wrong character and misguided values. If you are worshipping these heros, you must change your value system.

If you would like a sporting challenge, I would challenge you to work with the Lord's team. Dare to work hard for trophies that are eternal. Dare to carry the blood-stained banner of the cross and fight the good fight of faith. Dare to give up popularity in secular sports for leading the team for the Lord.

Lest you have already forgotten my opening statement, I would reiterate that all athletic activities are not sinful. The exercise derived from games played with right motives and for fellowship and relaxation are not Biblically condemned. But we, as God's people, have to set right priorities and understand God's plan for our lives. We have to be working toward spiritual maturity and striving to eliminate activities that would not be spiritually uplifting and wholesome.

Don't follow the multitude to do evil. A final challenge is for you to ask... FIRST... is it right, will it please the Lord and will I be drawn closer to Him and to my fellow Christians if I participate in this activity.

Will you accept the challenge? Will you look critically at your values and see if they are eternally satisfying and pleasing to God?

Brother Len Wertz

THE WAYS OF THE LORD

Psalm 19:7-11, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Each of us has a choice in this life. We can follow the ways of the Lord or we can follow the ways of man. Our opening verse says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:" While we are no longer under the law but under grace, there is much more to salvation than believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. As we have stated many times, it is not our desire or place to judge who will enter into Heaven. Yet we cannot ignore the fact that Jesus Christ taught in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Salvation is also more than a one time experience. It is a way of life.

The last part of the opening verse tells us, "the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." God has given us His testimony on the pages of Holy Scripture. Our human wisdom is foolishness in the eyes of God. But God can give us true wisdom if we believe all that His holy Word teaches us. Human wisdom tells us that many things taught by the Lord Jesus Christ and practiced by the New Testament Church and by the faithful for many years thereafter are not needed today. The testimony of the LORD is given for all mankind throughout all the ages of time.

Next we read, "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart." The statutes of the LORD are His rules given unto man. Why is it that the vast majority of christendom teaches that rules and regulations are a burden? The teaching that the New Testament does not contain any rules or regulations is a lie from the master deceiver himself. A truly happy Christian is one who is following the Lord in obedience. If following the Lord and all His ways does not cause rejoicing in our heart we had better search our heart to see if we are truly in the Faith.

"the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." The commandment of the Lord is pure. It is not a mixture of the world and righteousness. When our eyes are truly enlightened we will see the error of trying to use worldly practices to win the lost. We are aware of the fact that having such things as prizes for bringing the most visitors to church, games and other amusements

will attract the youth and even many older individuals. But the Holy Scriptures teach that it is to be the drawing power of the Holy Spirit through a life of holiness that is to draw others to Christ. It is much more important to be faithful than to be large in number.

"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever." God loves us and we need not fear Him if we are faithful to His Word. Yet we should always have the fear of the Lord in our heart. The fear of the Lord to us is a deep respect for who He is. Yet it also contains a real fear of His power to send us to Hell if we do not remain faithful. It causes us to desire to live a clean life. While Satan may tempt us and put evil thoughts in our mind we must pray and not give in to these thoughts and desires. God will give us the strength to endure. We do not need to depend on our own strength and goodness.

"The judgements of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." Do we truly desire the judgements of the Lord more than gold or honey? Or are there things in our life that makes us wish that God would not judge us? It is true to a degree that Jesus Christ carries our judgement and that God sees His shed blood in place of our sins. Yet Hebrews 3:14 clearly teaches, "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." We are glad that God's judgements are true and righteous altogether. As we stated at the beginning of this article, we would not want to judge who enters into Heaven. Our judgement may be faulty but God's judgement is perfect. We are very thankful that God does not judge us the way we sometimes judge one another. All too often we want to overlook the weaknesses of our own life and look down on a brother or sister who may have another weakness. Yet all of us must remember that God will not accept excuses for willful sin.

"Moreover by them is thy servant warned and in keeping of them is great reward." Our verse from Revelation contains both a warning and the promise of reward. God calls them blessed who do His commandments. It is these who will have right to the tree of life, symbolic or reality of eternal life depending on how your interpretation of this is. (We would like this to be symbolic since it allows us to enter through the gates into the city.) No eternal life is promised without obedience. May this reality cause us to desire to follow Christ each day of our lives and shun evil. Again we remind you of the need of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But do not allow anyone to convince you that the ways of the Lord does not include obedience and judgement.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1930

HOW READEST THOU?

A. M. Thorp

Luke 10:26: "He said unto him, what is written in the law? How readeest thou?"

Thus we have two questions. First, what is written; and second, how readeest thou?

People are reading more today than ever before. But more little are they reading the way it is written in the Bible to be read and obeyed. Most of the folks are reading to make it suit their all important end to teach the book instead of being taught. In the third verse of the same chapter, "Go your ways: behold I send you forth as lambs among wolves."

Oh, how many wolves in the world teaching, rather than being taught. Teaching anything but what has been laid out in the holy writings of God's Word for his lambs (meaning his children, his followers) to observe. The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few. Great is the world but so few are willing to be harvested. Many are willing so to say but not in their doings. Faith without works is dead. Not showing to the world, that they have come out from among the world and become a separate people.

We cannot expect anything but crime and disobedience to the laws of the land, for they are made by man, while the laws of God, the Creator, are supreme, the same yesterday, today and forever. They are absolutely unchangeable.

But yet men will rise up and say this isn't needful and that isn't meant the way it reads. I believe that God sees the wickedness of men today just as plainly as when he saw it back in the old Bible days when it was written in Gen. 6:5, "And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

God himself was grieved and disappointed in man for it reads like this in the next verse: "And it repented Jehovah that he had made man on the earth and it grieved him at his heart." Let us just be still and think now of the great love of God for the fallen race of mankind.

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Stop and think, after every imagination and every thought within man was continually thinking evil.

How much love it takes to keep such a one from letting him perish even though he does turn and believeth, but though your sins be as scarlet he will make them white as snow.

But so many are reading through Campbell or through Scott and think it means exactly what they say. They would rather risk their souls, and make a trial of man made laws, then take the good old gospel way.

If man could only be satisfied with what has been written in the law! And be willing to obey that law, it would be much easier for him to read and understand than when he tries to alter and commences to remodel the word. It is no wonder so many are led to believe anything but the truth.

Man's own rightness is nothing but filthy rags.

We have the law. How readest thou?

'Tis one thing friend, to read the Bible through,
Another thing to read to learn and do!
'Tis one thing too, to read it with delight,
And quite another thing to read it.

Some read it with design to learn to read,
But to the subject pay little heed;
Some read it as their duty once a week
But no instruction from the Bible seek.

Some read to bring themselves repute,
By showing others how they can dispute,
Whilst others read because their neighbors do,
To see how long 'twill take to read it through.

Some read the blessed Book they don't know why,
It somehow happens in the way to lie.
Whilst others read it with uncommon care,
But all to find some contradiction there.

One reads with father's specs upon his head,
And sees the thing just as his father did.
Another reads through Campbell or through Scott,
And think it means exactly what they thought.

Some ready to prove a preadopted creed,
They understand but little what they read,
And every passage of the book they bend
To make it suit that all important end.
Some people read as I have often thought,
To teach the book instead of being taught.

- Selected

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Marriage and Divorce

J. H. Moore

Marriage is the first and oldest institution in the world, and dates from the Garden of Eden. God, seeing that it was not good for man to be alone, made for him a woman and thus sanctified and set his approval on the marriage relation. No institution can be more holy, and none should be more highly respected.

In the beginning God intended that there should be one woman for each man, and that a union between the two should be for life. The idea of divorce, or separation, never entered into the primary arrangement. Divorce became an after-consideration, and was brought about by sin, or the hardening of the hearts of the people. While divorces were permitted under the Mosaic Law, the privilege, save for one cause, has been denied by the Gospel. In Matt. 19:8-9 we read: "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."... In these days of exteme looseness in the divorce courts, and the lack of respect for the matrimonial vow, the greatest possible efforts should be made to maintain the sacredness and purity of the marriage relation. No church that has any regard whatever for the standing of her members, or her influence for good in the world, can afford to tolerate any looseness along this line. Without a standard here that is wholly above reproach, there is no possibility of maintaining a high spiritual standing in the community.

Considering marriage further, we cannot too thoroughly emphasize the importance of the parties to the marriage contract being suited to each other in race, temperament, sentiment, training and religion. A union for life ought to be entered into with the utmost care, and with as little haste as practicable. Nor should the religious convictions of the parties be overlooked. Many of the best thinkers have reached the conclusion that a Christian should not marry outside of the faith. And, in fact, Paul would seem to sustain this conclusion in what he says in I Cor. 7:39, about marrying "only in the Lord." In II Cor. 6:14 we have this bearing on the same subject: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." There is no closer relation than that existing between husband and wife, and in view of this relationship, in which both are considered one flesh, the importance of a oneness in Christ Jesus cannot be too often and too forcibly emphasized. Only when two are agreed in the one faith, can they walk together in perfect harmony, and bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

NEWS ITEMS**PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA**

Our congregation has grown to love a song which says, "There is a God, He is alive." That is evident in the fact that souls are still coming to Him for salvation, lives are turning to "live for Him who died for me." Since the beginning of the year, several young people have been baptized. Listing many names does not diminish the importance of each individual, as we feel each one is important to the Body of Christ. Mark Peters, Betsy Peters, Jolene Wray, Dale and Julie Wemken, Sandy Stockton, Henry Brown, Jama Renicker, Stephanie Dutter and Cara Flora are those who have come. Even if you do not know them, your prayers are still important to them.

Some have felt the call to move to other less-populated areas, and we ask your prayers for their blessing and the spreading of the Word.

Bro. Jan Heisey from Mississippi was chosen as our evangelist this year, for a ten day meeting, August 3-12. We would appreciate visits from any who can come, and the remembrance in prayer by those who cannot be here.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation looks forward to Revival Meetings with Bro. Dennis St. John as evangelist starting August 26 and final services on September 2. On Saturday, September 1, we will have services at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and in the evening, surround the Lord's table.

"If two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Come enjoy spiritual food and fellowship.

Sister Mary Lou Kasza, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans a Revival Meeting from September 2, 1990 through September 9, 1990. Elder Allen Eberly from the Lititz Congregation will be our speaker.

Please remember these services in prayer, that the lost may be saved and that we may all be drawn closer to the Lord.

We cordially invite you to attend these services and worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

NOTICE**Conference Tapes**

Cassette tapes are available again this year. They are still the same price. \$1.50 each. There are nine preaching tapes and two singing. They can be ordered by mail or telephone. (419) 337-6251.

Vera Pike

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

AUGUST 15, 1990

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

POVERTY

Poverty, to me, is not knowing God
Or have Him to walk with each day.
Poverty, to me, is that poor lost soul
Who doesn't know how to pray.

To not want to read or study God's Word
Or sing sweet hymns to His praise
Would make one poor in the sight of the Lord,
And as nothing would be His days.

Opportunity is here in this land
To be rich in more ways than one.
While it is yet today, accept your Lord
Before the setting of your sun.

For the chance to be rich, have sins forgiv'n,
Is a time drawing to its close.
Sinner come and be washed in Jesus' blood;
It was for redemption He rose.

Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

PROFITABILITY

People who are in business endeavor to make a profit. After they have laid out a sum of money to pay for their inventory, their building, their license, their help, their utilities and many other things, wish to receive a surplus that will make the business profitable. The motivation for enduring the struggles of business is a profit.

A profit is not wrong as long as it is gained legally and morally and is not excessive. The profit motive provides the reason behind the product or service being made available. If there were no profit to be made, most improvements in our lifestyle would never be made.

Even if we do not have a business, we still try to make a profit. Our living, as secured through our job or self employment, is to be appreciated. There is a desire for something more — perhaps a part-time job, a yard sale, arts and crafts or some other sideline that will bring in a little extra money. This is the income that is beyond what is needful for a living. Some may end up putting too much emphasis upon securing this extra income, so they ignore their families or their Spiritual lives.

The profitability of our material lives is not nearly as important as the profitability of our Spiritual lives. Just as gain is desired in our financial affairs so we should desire gain in our Spiritual affairs. We should be growing Spiritually. The gains may be in our own Spiritual lives, or in other's Spiritual lives. It may be the sharing of the plan of salvation with the lost. It may be the increase in numbers and Spirituality in the Church. These various gains are our Spiritual profit.

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These items may not be expressed in the same "bottom line" way as a financial report but there is a need for profitable Spiritual lives. If our temporal businesses fail to make a profit, they soon have to close or incur huge debts. Our Spiritual lives must be profitable or else they regress and suffer loss. The Christian life is to be an advancement not a retreat. It must be profitable.

Various New Testament passages suggest many thoughts on our Spiritual profitability. Titus 3 suggests the change made from the unprofitability of serving self and Satan to the profitability of serving God. While our past lives were invested in the foolish, disobedient, lustful and hateful things of the unconverted, now they can be profitable through the good works that are pleasing to God.

James 2:14-17, suggests the connection between the profitability of works that accompany true religion compared to faith alone. Faith alone is likened to a religion that speaks only platitudes but does nothing concrete to help those in need.

Jesus, in Matthew 16:26, speaks of the unprofitability of a person gaining wealth, power, prestige and fame but in the end losing his soul. The true greatness of the soul demands making it the priority of life.

If we are profitable we must be content. So often when a little is gained there is a desire for a lot more. That desire leads to practices that negate prior godliness. When God's ways are reproduced in us He wants us to be content rather than constantly trying to accumulate more or to make unwise changes in our Christian lives.

The Love Chapter speaks of the unprofitability of the various talents and deeds that we do unless they are motivated by love. What we do must be motivated by the demonstration of the love of God toward us, and it in turn, must be done in love toward others.

To be profitable we need to study and know the Word of God. Jesus, in John 6:63, spoke of the unprofitability of our human flesh, frame and desires but in contrast spoke of the life-giving ability of the Spirit of God. By learning of the Spirit through the Spirit-inspired Word, life could be found and enlarged.

Jesus also instructed His followers to "... seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." In order to be profitable in any area of our lives we must make seeking God's will and way our priority. We must seek to do that which will prepare us for a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. We must prepare to maintain our place in the earthly kingdom of the Church and we must prepare ourselves for the Prepared Place He has gone to prepare for us. When we have put the things of God first, we will profit from what He will give us.

Profit is the aim in our material business. We should strive to be profitable in our Spiritual lives also. What is the "bottom line" in your Spiritual life?

REPAYMENT FOR SIN

Part 1

Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place to wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord."

Colossians 3:25, "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

In Judges 1:7, we read, "And Adonibezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: as I have done, so God hath requited me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died."

Combining these three scriptures (And many more could be included) suggested my subject, "God's repayment for sin."

In the nation of Australia, the natives make a weapon out of a curved piece of wood, called a BOOMERANG. It can be thrown in such a manner that it returns to the one that threw it. Quite often, it injures or does harm to that individual. When a scheme backfires and falls back with harm upon the schemer, we call it a boomerang. The Holy Writ teaches us that all our words, thoughts and deeds, whether good or evil will boomerang, either to our good or do us harm.

Adonibezek experienced the return of the boomerang when he stated in the scripture above, "So God hath requited me." Requite means: to pay back, return to, pay back in kind, whether good or evil, retaliate or revenge. One thing is certain, sin is always a boomerang. Sooner or later, sin comes home to roost. Solomon, in all his wisdom, said "Whoso DIGGETH a pit shall fall therein, and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."

Adonibezek was a king with power and authority, but he sinned and his sin found him out. Many people think they can outwit and outsmart God, but they cannot. People today gloat in inhumanity. They feast on sin. There is a day coming when their evil deeds will overtake them. Galatians 6:7-8, "... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

When God requited King Adonibezek, He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 16:4, "... the oppressors are consumed out of the land." In Psalms 72:4, "... and shall break in pieces the oppressor." Notice

that Adonibezek was a conceited, cruel, captured and evidently a convicted king. His victories came to an end. He became a conquered king. In verse seven he admitted God paid him back. It was God who brought him to defeat. He admitted that God had requited him. His plans boomeranged. When we plan or propose to do evil, God will pay us back, also.

The king received SINS' WAGES. Retribution is sure. The fiddler must be paid. There are many Biblical teachings proving the very same principle. Pharoah laid his plans to destroy Moses and the Children of Israel. Exodus 1:22. When God returned the BOOMERANG, Pharoah and his hosts were destroyed. Haman planned to hang Mordecai. It boomeranged. Mr. Haman the hangman, wound up in his own noose, hanged from his own gallows. The enemies of Daniel had their strategy well planned. Daniel would be devoured in the Persian pit. Their boomerang returned. These enemies of Daniel became a big meal for the lions. Daniel 6:24. Jezebel despised Godly Elijah. She purposed to murder him. God returned the boomerang. Elijah went to Heaven. Queen Jezebel became dog food. II Kings 9:36.

Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin, is the servant of sin." HOW TRUE IT IS. The individual who plays with sin, and stays with sin, becomes a slave to sin.

BE SURE, your sin will destroy you, if you continue therein! The words we speak often become a boomerang for good or bad. Job 6:25, "How forcible are right words!..." Proverbs 15:23, "... and a word spoken in due season, HOW GOOD IS IT!" Evil words, slanderous, lying and unclean, boomerang to the person who uttered them. Psalms 64:8, "So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves:..."

Thomas Fuller once said, "Birds get entangled by their feet, but men by their tongues." We are not to possess a lying tongue. The devil is the father of lies. Lies come home to roost, also. I recall a young woman, married, who obtained national fame by her telling the untruth. She posed as single and won a beauty contest. She lost the title. The whole United States knew she lied, through the media. The boomerang returned to her.

Illgotten and ill used money can become a boomerang. Many crooks and thieves, who are serving time in prisons, jails and reform schools can testify to the statement.

To be continued

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Place in the World System

We are living in a "Godless Age." Oh, the world would like to call it the Space Age, the New Age, the Scientific Age, and so forth, but in reality, none of these include God... so it is Godless. And, when there is no God, there is no reason. Crime will run rampant, man's ethics and values will deteriorate and society will fall apart.

In a Supreme Court case in Allegheny County, they decreed that "America is a secular nation." Nothing could be a greater point of truth of that statement in that the Supreme Court has also decreed that the Ten Commandments cannot be posted on the wall in public schools. In Indiana, the law says that teachers cannot carry a Bible to school as children might see it and in some way be influenced. Yes, we are living in a secular society! But can a secular society continue to survive? I would like to offer some observations that might help to answer that question.

First, in a secular society people can basically do whatever they want to do. There is no basis for right and wrong. Historically, when this happens, society breaks down. Severe problems like the Federal Savings and Loan situation occur when no values exist. Life becomes unimportant... only the security of the system continues to motivate people. The goals of the state supersedes those of individuals.

2. There is no basis for ethics in a secular society. I was recently made aware of a committee that was appointed to decide how public schools might teach ethics. After two years of deliberation, they decided that they really couldn't teach them. What ethics exist, then, are not from a Biblical base but only utilitarian.

3. There is no moral basis in a secular society. It seems very basic to understand that a society without a moral basis undergirding its values will collapse. Television and music are two of the basic propagators of the lack of a moral base. These mediums tend to be pleasure motivators and mind stealers. They have led to the tremendous problem that we have with drugs and alcohol. And, as I view it, the problem is not with supply... but with demand. Why is there a demand for these products? The answer is: no moral basis in society.

4. A secular society destroys our social base. The base of social life for the Christian has always revolved around family and church activity but we have little time for these functions any more. The world has closed in and has convinced us that leisure time activity should be spent in activities provided by them. It is time that we, as

a people of God, take a close look at what it means to be a holy nation, separated out for the Master's use. As we gain strength from one another we will more fully understand that society might well close our church buildings but they can't close down the people of God.

5. We must be preaching the truth at all costs. People, in general, prefer to hear a lie, if it gives them peace of mind, but the truth must prevail. We must be a servant people, working hard without a desire for recognition. Secular people have a great desire for recognition and hoopla but this is not of the Lord.

Finally, we are called to be a transformed people. This will only happen as we view life and living from God's eyes. We need to be excited about the opportunity to serve the Lord in this difficult age. Let's not get discouraged and shrink from our obligations. Jesus didn't shrink from the cross but bore His cup and died for our sins. The least we can do for Him in this secular society is to continue on in faithfulness.

Our place is found in the Holy Nation. We should fit in there and find comfort and fuel for the battle.

Brother Len Wertz

HONEST IN ALL THINGS

Hebrews 13:18, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

Romans 12:17, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

II Corinthians 8:21, "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

Next to our love, the greatest virtue of a Christian should be our honesty. Is it still true for us today as it was spoken of our forefathers that our word is as good as our bond? We fear that there are several areas where true honesty is not really a part of the Christian walk. We write this not with an attitude of judgement but with a confession of weakness in our own life.

The writer of Hebrews pleads, "Pray for us." Are we honest enough to admit that we need the prayers of others? We appreciate the humble attitude displayed by our elders and ministers at times of preaching and being elected to an office. Are we just as honest about our need of prayer in areas of our life where we have weaknesses? We recall as a young person attending a denomination where there was frequent testimony meetings. Many of the fine old saints would end their testimony with the words, "Pray for

me that I may prove faithful until the end." We believe this should be the attitude of every Christian.

Do we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly? Are we really honest with ourselves and each other? If we have a physical problem do we say that we feel just fine? We realize that it is not always expedient to answer the question, "How are you today?", with a detailed list of all our aches and pains. But is it really honest to say we feel fine when we do not? The teaching that we are to deny any physical illness or pain is really a form of lying! Are we honest enough to admit a spiritual weakness to a brother or sister? Although it is not our desire to judge any individual, we sincerely doubt that any of us does not have at least one area in our lives where we struggle if we are completely honest about it. I have to ask in love if anyone can truly claim spiritual perfection in this life. Perhaps one of the reasons there is so much adultery in the earthly church is because many are not willing to be honest enough to admit that they could fall in this area of their life.

Honesty demands that we recompense to no man evil for evil. If an individual overcharges us for work that they have performed for us we should not withhold payment. It also demands that we are to provide things honest in the sight of all men. When we owe a bill it should be paid before the due date if at all possible. If we sell something we should be completely honest about any defects it may have and try to charge an honest and reasonable price. If we are in a business we should try to keep our prices and labor costs, if that is applicable, within an honest range. On the other hand we should not expect someone else to work for less than we are willing to work for.

Are we honest in our relationship with one another? Do we smile and greet one another with a holy kiss while there is animosity in our heart? While there may be exceptions to the rule, if there is disagreement between us a brother or a sister we should be honest enough to face them with it. Are we honest enough to admit that there are problems in the fellowship if they exist or try to smooth things over? We would hope our elders and ministers would be honest enough to preach what is on their heart in place of trying to preach what is popular and pleasing to the ear.

We are convinced that many are not really honest with themselves when it comes to spiritual matters. When the Holy Spirit brings conviction in one area or another many sear their conscience until they convince themselves that wrong is right. Many modern preachers will face the judgement of God for not being honest with their congregations. We believe it is a serious thing to tell others that God did not mean what he said in His Holy Word or to deny that scriptural teaching is for today. Are Christians being

honest about the reasons they refuse to follow the traditions of the church? It is really because they believe the scriptures do not teach or oppose many of our traditions or is it because they have accepted the traditions of some other movement? Each individual will have to answer for him or herself in this matter.

We are to provide things honest in the sight of the Lord. If there is anyone we can be completely honest with it is with our Lord Jesus Christ. He already knows all our weaknesses and failures so it is foolish to think we can hide anything from him. Yet he loves us in spite of our human failures. This, however, does not excuse willful sin and disobedience. If you are living a life of sin and have fallen from the faith be honest enough to admit it and return to the fold. If you have never accepted the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary and had your sins washed away by His blood be honest enough to confess this need and He will give you eternal life. Honestly read the Holy Scriptures and be willing to follow all that it teaches. "And he (Peter) commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord..." Acts 10:48.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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1990 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

Continued from August 1, 1990 Issue

Sunday Evening.

Elder Hayes Reed opened. Nehemiah 1:1-10.

Elder Fred Pifer. Genesis 37. Joseph, where are you? Joseph in the Holy Word never sinned against God. We are living like in the seven years of plenty. We can gather to worship the Lord in any way and not be hindered. There is a time coming in the future of this world when Christ will come again and take all the righteous out. Let us all be ready when He comes.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson. Proverbs 13:12. Children Raising Parents. What kind of a young person should I be? Should I be of value to some one? Many times teenagers desire something but parents say "No." Indifference to parents is being rebellious. Young people God is talking to you, to be careful how you live your life. He wants you to be obedient to your parents. Young people when you keep Christ in your life, you can receive from that tree of life. Young people God wants you to be fishers of men. Jesus said, "Will a man take my cross and follow me?" You need to read the Bible no matter where you are. Be faithful to God and respect your parents.

Elder Edward Johnson closed. Young people, what's in the brain work in your minds? We are living in the times when there are lots of changes. Jesus Christ is our Savior.

Monday A.M.

Bro. James Meyers opened. Job 37. Do we respond to God with our time? Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all the rest will be added unto you.

Adult Bible Study - Rom. 2. A call to Integrity in Christian Living.

Children's Bible Study - I Sam. 15. Obedience to God.

Bro. David Aungst. Matthew 24:44. Ready or not here I come. One day Jesus is coming. Will we be ready when He comes? We can't tell Christ we are not ready when He comes. We are rushing and rushing and entangled in this world, but we are neglecting and not putting Christ first. Are you ready to meet God and Christ? There is work for each one of us to be a light to this world. We think too much of self and not enough of others. Are we letting our light shine? We should be able to tell some poor sinner about salvation. What did Jesus do for us? Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you." It should not be grievous to follow Christ's commandments. We should follow Christ all the way and no other man or organization on this earth. We must grow and grow for the Lord. Our time is short. Satan is mighty but God is almighty. We must continue all through life to work for the Lord. When we follow Christ no man can take our crown. Your opportunity is now, get ready to meet Christ when He comes. If we follow Christ we don't need to worry, we will be ready when He comes. He will come in the twinkling of the eye which is one fifth of a second. Christ will come quickly. He has given us the way to get ready.

Bro. Ronald Marks closed. Are you ready? We have to get ready. All we need is the Holy Word. We need to separate our worldly way for the Heavenly way.

Monday P.M.

Bro. Tom St. John opened. Mark 1:16-20. Jesus told Simon and Andrew to come and become fishers of men, ye after me. James and John were mending their nets. Jesus wanted the Disciples to go out and teach the people the way of salvation.

Bro. James Eberly. Hebrews 12:1-15. Discipline. Discipline is training ourselves as God would have us. We are going to have to turn our back on what the world has to offer. We are going to have to decide what is good for us in this life. There is a lot of sin in this world. We must get out all sinful lust from our life. We have to make sure we discipline our lives and keep true and faithful to God. Discipline belongs to a Christian home. If the homes are not under discipline, the church will have problems. One reason we have to

discipline in the church is because we have to keep it according to God's will, and make sure that we keep order in the church.

Bro. Mark Andrews. I Kings 11:1-13. Decisions. David understood he was serving a great God. Do we think God is a gracious God and will not pass His judgment on us. The judgment day after we leave this world is too late for us. Are we willing to give our all to our Heavenly Father? Pride would tell us we cannot give it all to Him. We must be separate from the world, and as peculiar people, we cannot think like the world and live separate from it. Replacing pride is humility. The very first thing God hates is a proud look. God will not suffer a proud look. We need to live by God's standards. God created the Heavens and Earth. Scientists tell us differently but we have the Bible to prove that God did it. The only right we have on this earth is salvation for our souls. The only right we have is Eternal life by the obedience of God. We should sacrifice our life from carnality. We need to sacrifice the will of our life to the will of God. Sacrifice is all to Christ, to keep the faith. Why is it that we are not quite willing to give our all to Christ? Christ gave His all for us. Christ bought our salvation with the full price.

Bro. Kenneth Wilderson closed. We will never accept discipline unless we keep that true love for Christ. Are we living sacrificially to the Lord?

Monday Evening.

Elder William Heisey opened. John 9:1-12. This man was born blind to manifest the works of Christ by healing his eyes.

Elder Virgil Leatherman. I Cor. 6:19-20. Bought with a Price. God told Adam and Eve they were not to eat of that tree of Life. Satan told Eve she could eat of the tree of Life. She tasted of the tree of Life and it was good. She gave to Adam and he did eat. They had their eyes opened, and they found they were naked. They put fig leaves on their bodies to cover them. God asked them about their sin and they saw their mistake. Our salvation was made up before the world began. Sinning by our foreparents in the Garden of Eden has caused all the sorrow for mankind on this earth. Our redemption did not come easy. It took the death of the Son of God to pay for our sins. Satan could not keep Christ in the grave. Christ came forth and we can gain our salvation through Him.

Elder Charles Leatherman. I Cor. 10:11. Lessons for Admonition. Why does it take some people so long to get their minds settled on Christ? The Apostle Paul gave the Corinthian church admonition on some of the things that were sinful they were doing. The Christian church today is plagued by some of the same things as the Corinthian church. Jesus did not have a proud heart. He had a very quiet and humble spirit. Small sins don't stay small, they grow. It's better to stay faithful and not sin.

Elder Frank Shaffer closed. We have admonitions given to us so we will not fall. Satan will cause us to fall.

To be continued.

Sister Alice Heisey

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1930

PLAIN DRESSING

Joseph P. Robbins

If our position as a church on the question of plain dressing, and our opposition to the fashionable follies of the age, are not in accordance with the teachings of the New Testament, and of reason and common sense, then the sooner we drop them the better it will be for us. We want it plainly understood that we place this question on higher ground than tradition or custom. Customs, by long usage, it is said, becomes laws.

This may be true in secular affairs, but not so with the laws of God. A custom cannot be made right by long usage, neither can a principle of right be overthrown because it is new. If the principle of plain dressing, as taught and practiced by the Dunkard Brethren, has only tradition and customs to sustain it, then we say, let it go down.

Let us examine the ground of our faith and practice on this subject. We claim that the New Testament explicitly teaches plainness and modesty in dress, in the following language: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold or pearls, or costly array." (1 Tim. 2:9). "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel." (1 Pet. 3:3).

Here we might rest the case, for the language used is so plain that it needs no comment. It was penned by divine authority, and should command our fullest respect and most cheerful obedience. But men and women, professing godliness, refuse to obey it. They adorn themselves with gold, with diamonds and pearls, in costly array, and yet claim to obey God's word.

They forget that, as the soul is of so much more importance than the body, God grants us to be very careful about adorning it, and not to pay so much attention to the adorning of the body, which is to perish. It is true that the ornaments of the heart are of more value than all the gems and pearls worn by Egypt's voluptuous and fashion loving queen.

Virtue, love, gentleness of spirit, purity, benevolence and a cultured mind are the priceless jewels that are to be worn by the true Christian. If these are set in the heart, then there will not be so much desire for bodily ornamentation.

A plain exterior is often the very evidence of these graces within, while their absence is often a mark of display.

To say that men and women may dress as they please, become mere butterflies of fashion, adorn themselves with costly raiment, with gold and pearls, and at the same time, claim to be true followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, is to say that the Holy Ghost, speaking through the apostles, uttered words that have no meaning, and are, therefore, of no account. Shall we take a position of this kind? If so, others, assuming to themselves the same right, may discard such portions of God's word as do not suit them, and soon we shall have nothing left that we are bound to obey.

Those who are opposed to plain dressing are ever ready to cry out, "Old customs", "traditions", and so forth. It is time this cry were stopped. Remember now once for all, that the question is not as to whether we will follow the customs and traditions of our fathers, but whether will we obey the teachings of the New Testament; not as to whether we will dress in plain and modest attire, because our brethren and sisters dressed that way, but whether we will obey God's commands, and dress ourselves in "becoming attire, with modesty and soberness of mind, not decorating ourselves with wreaths of gold or pearls or expensive clothing." (Wilson's translation of I Tim. 2:9).

We will do well to follow our fathers just as far as they followed Christ. And so far as they succeeded in keeping themselves separate and distinct from the world, not only in dress, but in everything pertaining to Christian life and character, we may learn of them and follow them safely.

Our fathers succeeded in their work and have gone to their reward. They met the living questions of their day, and acted upon them as God gave the ability and wisdom.

And just as far as they kept themselves distinct and separate from the world, they did well. We are not called upon to meet the obsolete questions of the past. We are in the living present, and we are, if we would obey the word, bound to keep ourselves distinct and separate from the fashions of the world. Can we as a religious body, maintain the principles of plain dressing amongst us?

We believe we can.

HOW DO YOU SPREAD THE GOSPEL?

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

How do you spread the gospel? Many churches hire preachers to do all the work. Jesus, however, did not just command those of an official capacity to go into all the world and preach the gospel. This is a job for all of us, regardless of our station in the church.

The average Christian should have a love for the souls of men. He should, as I Peter 3:15 says, be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks a reason of the hope that is in us. In this regard we should be like Job's friend Elihu, who said, "Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent, it is ready to burst like new bottles. I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer." (Job 32:19-20)

Our ministers and Sunday School teachers are able to spread the gospel to many people at a time. But often in the context of a church meeting there are very few outsiders. So all of us, ministers, and non-ministers, must minister largely to one person at a time. It will only have an impression, however, if our life measures up to what we are preaching. In order for our message to have drawing power it must be presented as Christ presented it: with a compassion for the souls of men.

How do you spread the gospel? Some of us teach, some of us preach, some of us write. But we all must approach each person we meet with a Godly, holy concern for his soul. We must know our Bible, and we must not be afraid to share our love of Jesus with everyone. Can we do any less for one who died for us?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, our revival will be August 7 through 16, closing with a Communion service, Saturday, August 15. Our speaker will be Bro. Gordon Jamison. Come and worship with us if you can, and pray for these services.

Sister Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center Congregation plans a ten day revival meeting beginning, Friday, August 10 through Sunday,

August 19. Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson from Myerstown, Pennsylvania is to be our evangelist.

We invite each of you to come worship with us. Services begin at 7:45 each week night. All day services are planned for August 18 and 19 with services beginning at 10:45 Saturday morning and Lovefeast services that evening.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

We, the McClave Congregation are looking forward to a week of Revival Meetings starting, September 23, 1990 with Bro. Mark Andrews of Kansas City, Missouri as our evangelist. Our Communion Service with God's blessing, will be September 29, 1990.

We invite all who can attend to be with us. Those who cannot we ask your prayers for this Revival.

Sister Dianne Wertz, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation will have their Harvest Meeting on September 2 with Bro. Tom St. John speaking. We invite everyone to come and worship with us. Remember us in prayer.

Sister Becky Stalter, Cor.



If a man sets about climbing a steep cliff when he is young and active, and has the free use of his limbs, he has a great advantage; the old and the crippled are pretty sure to fall. So it is with repentance. The young can mount the hill, if they set about it in good earnest, with much less effort. But they who are old in sin, they whose souls have become stiff through years of wickedness, and have grown double, so to say, by looking earthward, — how much more difficult it is for them!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1990

September 2 - "I Can Do All Things Through Christ" - Phil. 4:11-23.

1. Who is the source of our strength? verse 13.
2. How does God supply our needs? verse 19.

September 9 - Delivered From the Power of Darkness - Col. 1:1-18.

1. How have we been delivered? verse 14.
2. How do we "walk worthy of the Lord"? verse 10.

September 16 - Continue in the Faith - Col. 1:19-29.

1. How do we continue in the faith?
2. What is the mystery that was hidden? verse 27.

September 23 - Established in the Faith - Col. 2:1-12.

1. What was Paul's longing for the Colossians? verse 2 and 3.
2. How are we established and made complete?

September 30 - Quickened Together with Christ - Col. 2:13-23.

1. How are we made alive in Christ?
2. What is the key to victory? verse 20.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1990

September 2 - High Standards - Gen. 17:1, Matt. 5:48, Heb. 6:1, Heb. 12:14, II Cor. 7:1.

1. Who is our "High Standard"?
2. Why are high standards important today? Matt. 5:14.

September 9 - The GOLDEN RULE - Matt. 5:46, Matt. 6:12, Luke 6:30-35.

1. What makes this rule "golden"?
2. What makes this rule work? John 15:13.

September 16 - Pleasure Seeking - Prov. 21:17, Luke 8:14, Luke 12:19, II Pet. 2:13-22.

1. What causes men to seek worldly pleasure? Luke 12:21.
2. What is the remedy for this problem? Matt. 6:33, Col. 3:1.

September 23 - Secret Things - II Kings 17:9, Ps. 19:12, Eph. 5:11-17.

1. Why are evil deeds done in secret? John 3:20.
2. Are all things done in secret evil? Matt. 6:1-18.

September 30 - Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31.

1. Notice and contrast the two eternal destinies!
2. Will hell be the place where we awake to reality?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

SEPTEMBER 1, 1990

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HAVE FAITH

Have faith that God will help you through
All troubles that you know.
You really need faith, yes you do,
For God hath said it so.

Have faith that someone will be saved
And rescued from the storm.
I pray to God with heart of faith
That I may stay from harm.

Have faith that God will welcome you
Into His Home above.
Have faith that it is really true
God sent His Son with love.

Have faith that God will help you pass
The awful tempter's snare
That He will lead you down the path
Where faith flows bright and fair.

Linda L. Blocher

SPECULATION

Historically the Brethren have been very little interested in speculative theology. Rather than speculate upon what might be in the future or to ponder on unponderable subjects even of the present, they have preferred to confine their thoughts to the revealed Word of God. They have accepted the Bible as the authoritative instruction given to men by God. They believe that He has given to men what they need to know. What He has given is sufficient for men to secure their soul's salvation. What He has not given to men should not be the interest of men, for their responsibility is to carry out what they have been given.

The subject of future events, often misnamed prophecy, has been of interest as various climactic events have happened. There is always the question of how these events fit into the overall scheme of events that will lead to the end and judgment of this world.

Because the Book of Revelation contains much figurative language attempts are made to fit current events into some of the events that are referred to as signs or components of the end times. Some give much time and study to this subject. Often they write books and declare from the pulpit or lecture podium their conclusive theories. There have been many dates set and many who have been gullible enough to follow these theorists. The theories have many times been proven erroneous by the passage of time. Too often these theories are based upon presumptions and upon language similarities that are only superficial. Many have been fooled by these predictions and some have been made to appear very foolish by them.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

SEPTEMBER 1, 1990

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Events that happen around the world including changes in the weather, political events or cultural events are all interpreted so they will fit into some particular theory. When these theories do not work out as expected not only are the promoters and followers of that theory left embarrassed but the onlooking world is given another opportunity to laugh at the Church, the Word of God and even God, Himself. They are confirmed in their belief that all things continue the same from age to age. Sensing no need to prepare themselves for God's judgment they continue in their sinful ways. Because men's speculative theories of the future have failed to materialize, there are some unprepared for the return of the Lord and for the Judgment. They have heard too much speculation to take seriously the actuality of the Lord's return.

Rather than have our minds filled with trying to interpret events and disasters around the world in terms of various speculative theories, we should make ourselves knowledgeable in the Bible. We should know the teachings that have been given to us for the salvation of our souls. If we get to know what is between the covers of God's Word, we will know what is demanded of us that we would make the wise decision in accepting His plan of salvation and to live as one who is willing to honor Him by our living. We must know these things but the major part is interpreting the Bible through our daily lives. Living is more involved than merely knowing. Life has to confront obstacles not just notice them. Whatever speculative theories may be current — and they do change from time to time — we should be living our lives according to the Bible's instructions. We should be doing our best to put into practice what we are taught rather than be involved in speculation.

Paul had to admonish the Thessalonians to become active. They believed the Lord would return soon so they became inactive, merely waiting for His return. Paul had to spur them on so they would not vegetate. Others do not believe there will be a return of the Lord or that it will not be for a long time yet so they have lapsed into inactivity because they have no reason to be engaged in active Christian living.

Speculative theories will damage our Christian lives if they lull us asleep because we believe time will soon be done or we believe it will go on indefinitely. Therefore our reaction should be to not be overly concerned with speculation but more interested in the application of that which we do know from the Bible. If we study the Bible with the idea of learning all we need to know to please God and to secure our soul's salvation we will have no regrets, although we may not know or understand the various speculative theories of the future.

Speculation either financially or Spiritually can be ruinous. Financial speculation can lead to financial ruin but Spiritual speculation can lead to Spiritual ruin, which is eternal. Now is the time to apply the Word of God to your life.

REPAYMENT FOR SIN

Part 2

Gehazi is another example. HE COULD NOT stand to see wealthy Naaman return home, healed of leprosy, without paying for the cure. Elisha, who healed him, refused his money. Gehazi persuaded Naaman to pay him instead. Gehazi was very shrewd in getting that money. He returned home with his dishonest gain, thinking no one knew. God had already notified Elisha. When God returned the boomerang Gehazi became a leper, "WHITE AS SNOW." II Kings 5:27.

A mother carried her son, when a child, to a booze joint, where she worked. Years later, this boy killed his mother, being in a drunken stupor. God requited her.

Sometimes greedy men will spend their health to get wealth, and violate God's Word getting it, then the boomerang falls. They spend their wealth and cannot get health. The back-lash of the boomerang is deadly!

Illicit sex is another sin which boomerangs. The indulgers are repaid in this life by almost incurable diseases, AIDS being one of the deadliest. At best, they are marked for life. This is part of their repayment for sexual sin.

God returns a double boomerang in the case of sexual sins. In I Cor. 6:9-10 we read, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither FORNICATORS, nor idolaters, nor ADULTERERS, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with man-kind,... shall inherit the kingdom of God."

The associated press carried a news item regarding a "Supposed" family man, three thousand miles from home. His charred body was found with the charred body of another woman, not his wife, in a fire gutted hotel room. He was certain he could sin, and nobody would know it. The news was flashed across the United States. His sin boomeranged to his death.

Broken hearted boys and girls who have catered to the flesh, have had the payment for their sin boomerang on them in many ways.

Christian America, permitting lewd magazines, filthy pictures, living together without marriage, drunkenness and a host of Biblical violations, are feeling the impact of the return of God's boomerang.

The number of juvenile delinquents, AIDS cases and so forth is increasing so fast, that many states' jails are overcrowded. Shelters for battered women and children have to be maintained and staffed. This condition puts a financial burden on our nation, and it trickles down to every taxpayer in the form of higher taxes. SIN DOES STRIKE BACK!

A minister called a young girl member to his office. He strongly advised her to discontinue smoking. She actually laughed at him. On her way home she lit a cigarette, and in doing so she lost control of her car, hit a tree and killed herself.

"He (or she) that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption."

Drinking will provide a boomerang with most certainty, saith God's Word. "Look not upon the wine... at last it bitteth like a serpent."

Spurgeon related of a minister who, at one time was sound in the faith. He began to trim his messages to please men, and to increase a personal following. It BOOMERANGED. He lost his ministry, his following and wife and home.

The parents of an eight year old boy always sent him to Sunday School but they never went. Instead, they went swimming on Sunday morning. Their boy knew about it, and one Sunday morning, instead of going to Sunday School he went swimming in a different pool. At noon, while they awaited him for dinner, the police rapped on their door. Their son had drowned a few minutes before. God requited them.

This is a game you cannot beat. When God says He will repay with the same kind, HE WILL. WE SHALL REAP WHAT WE SOW.

It is written, "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."

Remember, if we try to out-wit God, to bluff Him or to pretend we are something we are not, He knows the truth and we will suffer the consequences.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

1990 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1990 Issue

Tuesday A.M.

Bro. Fred Johnson opened. James 4:1-11. There is no substitute for victory. You are victorious or you lose. We must separate our Christian life from the world. We must be a witness to the world. We cannot be of the world. The world is enmity to God. We must

have a clean heart to be victorious over Satan. Satan wants us to fall. Let's stay away from Satan as far as we can.

Adult Bible Study - Acts 20:17-38. A Farewell Message.

Children's Bible Study - Judges 16. Sampson Loses His Strength.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer. Exodus 3:1-10. Moses was a chosen child by God. God protected him. Moses had a dream that he would lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses was a shepherd at one time. Are you prepared in your life to do what God wants you to do? Moses was prepared in forty years to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. We must have faith and obey God. Elijah put great faith in God to supply his every need in the wilderness. God will supply our every need. It takes a little humility for God to get you in the place where He wants you to work and trust Him in time of need. Christ suffered temptations and so will we. Satan is always there to cause us to fall. We need to rely on the spirit of God to direct us. What is the will of the Lord for your life? Are you willing to let God lead your life?

Bro. David Aungst closed. The Apostle Paul was faithful to the end. Are we staying faithful to the Lord? We must have the love of Christ and then we can go through the wilderness and receive help from our Heavenly Father.

Tuesday P.M.

Bro. Tom St. John opened. I Timothy 11:1-4. When things go well with us sometimes we neglect to pray. The Holy Word says to give thanks and pray.

Bro. John Meyers. 1940-1990: 50th Anniversary of NISBCO. The National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors was organized in 1940, just prior to World War II. It was the result of united action of the Church of the Brethren, the Friends and the Mennonites in behalf of conscientious objectors. They supplied work that replaced military service through Civilian Service Camps, hospitals and farm work in cooperation with the Selective Service Board. Over the years many other Churches, including the Catholics, have been represented in NISBCO.

How have the Dunkard Brethren taken their stand, beside membership in this Board? In 1939, General Conference formed the Civilian Service Board. General Conference sent a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt stating our church's stand against going to war in 1940. On February 22, 1941, the Dunkard Brethren Church held a called General Conference at Pleasant Ridge, Ohio concerning our position on going to war and provisions for those who would be serving in alternative service.

The National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors still meets twice a year. This Board communicates with

the Congress and Selective Service. Our Civilian Service Board is composed of Elder Ray Reed; Elder Jacob Ness; Elder Allen Eberly; Elder Robert Carpenter and Elder Milton Cook. These Elders will be able to help you if you have any questions before registration for the draft.

We are all missionaries. If we are ambassadors to Christ it is going to show. A conscious boy should live a faithful life because he is being watched by his neighbors. Let's all look for the opportunity to help other people.

Bro. Mark Andrews closed. Maybe our hands are a little too soft to do Mission work for the Lord. It would be good for us to check ourselves if we are doing enough Mission work for Christ.

Tuesday P.M.

Elder Harley Rush opened. II Timothy 4. Let us be at peace with one another. Live faithful to Christ until death.

Elder David Skiles. Acts 5:11-22. Go, Stand and Speak. Christ is the same now as He was long ago. We are a very responsible people. There are those that can't get Bibles for their homes. Jesus says go. We are to go into the world and spread the Holy Word. Are we really obedient people in practice? We need to keep right on going and never give up teaching the Holy Word. We need a little broader vision in the world. Ye are the light of the world. Jesus spoke of sowing seed in the field. The field is the world. We do not have spiritual vision unless we have the needs of a lost and dying world. What is God's concern for a lost and dying world? God doesn't want any one to die in sin. What ministry does this inspire you to do? We can speak out for Christ any place we are. God will help us out to witness for Christ. Let your light shine for the Lord.

Elder Jacob Ness closed. How many times do we pray for lost souls? How much encouragement have we given?

Sister Alice Heisey

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Living in the Penthouse

I love the letter to the Ephesians as Paul communicates to us about "heavenly places." We, as Christians, are elevated to the top level of fellowship with Jesus. Even though we look forward to Heaven we must realize that the Lord has given us just a preview of it in the special relationship we can have here on earth. We have experienced "heavenly" fellowship both at Conference and Retreat. But, not only there. We have our local congregation in which to draw on the love and gifts of the brothers and sisters. These are penthouse... "upper level" experiences.

We must remember, however, that these penthouse relationships just don't happen on their own. There are several steps given in the Bible to help us realize this.

First, we are told to consider one another and provoke each other to good works. (Heb. 10:24) Simply, we are told here to be a considerate person... to consider each other in kindness. To do this we will have to encourage them through their personal problems and struggles. We will have to consider the shoes that they must wear and encourage them on in love. We might even have to go through personal repentance if our attitude isn't right toward the individual needing help so we can be able to give him the right consideration.

It is easy, when we have problems, to just quit meeting together and to do it too quickly. That is not God's will for us and will not lead to penthouse living. Our call is to take the first step toward a right relationship by properly considering the other person.

Secondly, we need not only to consider the other person but we must receive them as Christ receives us. Acceptance must be as the Lord accepts us. What a responsibility! I can think of few things worse than being rejected. It leads to loneliness, hurting deeply, the wounding of our spirit, to discouragement, to divisions in the church and in marriage and sometimes even to someone taking their life. IT IS SIN. I challenge you to include all of the brothers and sisters in your life. You'll live in the penthouse.

Thirdly, we must be forbearing in our relationships. This means that they will endure because we are willing to suffer for the sake of another person. We all have negative attributes. Yes, even you! As you bear with another person with whom you seem to have little in common, you will grow in love and fulfill the Ephesians 4 admonition.

The fourth Bible principle here is given to us in I Peter 3:8 when we are admonished to have compassion one for the other. Compassion does not repay evil with evil. It sees people in distress and downcast and is moved to reach out to them. It sees the unsaved and doesn't shut up its bowels of mercies from them. It was because of compassion that Jesus gave up His privacy in times of great stress, such as after the beheading of John the Baptist. He felt their suffering and preached to them and healed them. He fed them rather than dwelling on the horrible things that had just happened. He was fully compassionate. As we take on His character, we will live in heavenly places.

Finally, we are taught by Paul in I Corinthians 12 to "Care for one another." I need you and you need me. If I suffer, you suffer and if I rejoice, you rejoice. That is real caring. I am anxious and care

about you. I will carry you in your time of spiritual illness and you will carry me in mine. This is living in the penthouse of God's love.

We are traveling through a difficult world and we need to be very sensitive, today, to those that might be dropping behind. They WILL respond to sincere caring. Won't you care? If you don't, maybe no one will.

Brother Len Wertz

THE DANGER OF INDIVIDUALISM

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."

II Timothy 3:14, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"

I Peter 3:8-9, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called that ye should inherit a blessing."

Individualism, in one form or another, has been with us down through the ages of time. The original idea of being an individual, willing to follow your own convictions rather than following the crowd, is illustrated by the prophets in the Old Testament. In more modern times it has been expressed by such statements as "doing your own thing." The strange paradox of modern individualism is that "just being me" usually means following the most recent trend.

While the book of Ecclesiastes contains both the searching of an individual for life's meaning and true wisdom, we believe our opening verses represent the latter. It also introduces another aspect of individualism. Hebrews 10:25 warns us that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is. We need one another when we fall. It matters not if the "falling" is physical or spiritual. If someone is unable to attend worship services because of illness for an extended period of time we should make an effort to bring worship to that individual. If it is not possible to visit in person a card or letter is better than nothing. While we cannot allow open sin to be acceptable in our assemblies, we should desire that one that has fallen spiritually will be restored to fellowship.

The verse from II Timothy brings to mind the problem of individualism within the church. "Throwing off the shackles of the

"past" and "enjoying the freedom to do as I want" are not terms that are limited to worldly society. Most, if not all, of us are guilty of having a rebellious spirit when it comes to being told what we can and cannot do. Many of our former Brethren traditions have been set aside because some individual decided they were "legalism." As with those within worldly society, the "individual minded" within the church were soon following the latest trend. Before long the modern thought became the standard to live by. We have to wonder where it will all end. Is the time fast approaching when those who follow the plain way of life are seen as individualists while the majority are following the popular trends? We are speaking of those who still hold to the plain way of life, including our own Dunkard Brethren Church. The spirit of individualism has already destroyed the plain tradition of our forefathers in the vast majority of assemblies who call themselves BRETHREN. The charge of "legalism" (a mis-used term that actually refers to using Old Testament methods in a New Testament setting for salvation) and "worshipping our forefathers" does not change the fact that when plainness went out the world came in. With the entering in of worldly customs came the acceptance of unscriptural practices.

Another denomination (not of Brethren background) has announced the problem of some desiring the worship of "Sophia" a goddess along with, or in place of, the worship of the triune God. It all started with three individuals having "a vision" of some sort. Each had the thought separately but Satan brought them together and they now have a book out promoting this unscriptural practice. With the acceptance of unscriptural woman leadership in churches we wonder if such far out teaching may take root? It is interesting to us that this particular denomination from its start has promoted women preachers. While women preachers and worship of a goddess is not a present threat in our Dunkard Brethren Church, we are concerned about the seeming evidence of many within our denomination seeking to follow "new light" in place of what our forefathers followed. We believe the vast majority of our Brethren traditions can be traced back to the time of the apostles. Any tradition cast off should be because it was prayerfully thought out and not from an individualistic spirit of rebellion.

Our verse from I Peter gives us a final warning concerning individualism. "Being of one mind" does not only mean looking alike and agreeing on scripture. According to Peter it means we must have compassion for one another. We are to love as brethren. That should hit home to us who call ourselves "Brethren!" We are to be pitiful and courteous. We are to weep with those who weep and show respect for one another. We are not to rend evil for evil, or railing for railing. Our meeting houses are not to be battlefields.

There is one thing you must do as an individual. That is you must realize you are a sinner in need of a Savior. If you have come to the knowledge of salvation then strive to become as one. If you have not, the blood of Jesus Christ can make you whole. He died for each individual but the spirit of individualism is contrary to the Spirit of wholeness that is to be within the body of Christ, the Church.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

THE TAMING OF THE TONGUE

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." (James 1:26) Let it be boldly declared: Anyone who does not control his tongue is testifying against himself, that his religion is worthless. Such people will not inherit the kingdom of God. (I Corinthians 6:9-10) In numerous places in the New Testament, gossip is listed with the most wicked deeds.

A person who claims the name of Christ, and yet gossips, is a disgrace to that name. It is easy to say, "Yes — my tongue is under control," and in the next breath be a vicious gossip. Do not deceive yourself. Is your tongue really bridled?

Love is the proof of true Christian living. Someone who truly loves other believers will not gossip. In fact, gossip and slander are proof that a person does not have love for others. (I Cor. 13:4-7) In a real way, then, to gossip is to deny that one is walking as a disciple.

If you are a gossip, it is good to find out now that your religion is worthless. It is far better to find out here, than to be deceived until the day of judgment.

The problem is worthless religion. The uncontrolled tongue is only a symptom. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) He also said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." (John 14:21) When a person is in love with Jesus, and walks with him, righteousness is the natural result. I John 3:6 says, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." Sin is the symptom. The problem is not seeing him and not knowing him on a regular basis. The solution is a living relationship with the Living God.

Our righteousness might not be perfected all at once, but will increase more and more as we press on to know the Lord. "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto a perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18)

Brother Dean Shaffer

SOUL-WINNING: THE REAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

The greatest need in the Church today, or any other day, is that of soul winning. The Church needs people who will talk about Christ and His gospel. However, the kind of passion for souls as displayed by the first century Christians seems to be completely lacking in most congregations today. The early Church was involved in a daily evangelism. They "ceased not" to teach and preach Jesus as the Christ. Even when persecution came upon the Church, "... they therefore that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." (Acts 8:4)

Somehow, we have misplaced our values. It seems that many are more interested in impressing people than implanting principles. Some, it seems, are afraid of offending folk with plain talk about the commands of the gospel. We must, however, get our values in perspective. Nothing is more valuable than a soul. (Matthew 16:26) Our personal popularity is worthless compared to the soul of a friend or relative. Jesus was not running a popularity contest and neither must we!

The mission of the Master is the mission of the Church. Jesus said, "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." (Luke 19:10) Soul winning is therefore the real work of the Church. The various acts of worship such as singing and praying are important, but the real work of the Church is not passing the communion bread or ushering. These things are important and necessary, but the work of the Church is to seek the lost!

There is no such thing as a congregation where there is no work for everyone. There is something for every member of the body to do. (Ephesians 4:16) Each one can win one. This does not mean every member must teach a "class." One can tell the story of Jesus on the job, at the break, at play, over the backyard fence, or in the privacy of the home. There are opportunities every day to influence someone for good and to direct one's thinking toward God and His Word. Our problem, oftentimes, is that we do not see and seize the opportunity.

We need to "think souls" as we go about the business of life. It would help us if we would think of people as souls that need to be saved. How can we win people to Christ? This question should always be upon our hearts.

May we overcome fear and discouragement through constant prayer and persistent effort. Realizing the urgency and importance of soul winning, let us not hesitate to speak to others concerning their need of salvation. Soul winning is the real work of the Church!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1930

THE PRAYER COVERING

William Wells

I would like to say in the first place, the covering mentioned by Paul in I Cor. 11th chapter concerning the believing woman and the covering concerning the believing man, they are in no way related to each other. Neither should they be considered as such, for the simple reason one is a prayer covering and the other is a natural or weather covering. God has had, and he still has, a purpose in all things that he does. And if need be he also has a remedy. I read in the third chapter of Genesis how God dealt with Adam and Eve after they had eaten of the forbidden fruit. In verse 16, God unfolds to Eve what is to be the duty of the woman, and God ends the verse by saying that her husband should rule over her. And as I look at that expression that meant a curse on her, that is proof to me that she had severed her relationship with God in the Garden of Eden by eating of the forbidden fruit. She brought sin on herself, and sin is a separation from God.

But in verse 17 God addresses Adam in altogether a different way. He says cursed is the ground for thy sake. Now you tell me why was the curse placed directly on the woman and not directly on the man? Answer: As I see it there is only one reason — I Cor. 11:3, "But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ and the head of the woman is the man." Now will you tell me how could God place a curse on the man and not in some degree affect his head, Christ? While he could justly do so to the woman for if it did affect the man, her head, it would matter not, for he was already in sin. But the head of the man knew no sin, therefore cursed is the ground for thy sake.

So I know of no place in all the Bible from that day till after the church was no longer in the mind of God but had become a reality and actually existed here on earth that the slaveship was removed

from off the woman. But since that old Adamic sin was nailed to the cross and as Christ said in his own words old things have passed away and all things have become new, the husband is commanded to love his wife, and the wife is no longer a slave to her husband, but the command to her is love her husband. So to me Paul by the Holy Spirit, backed up by the powers of Heaven, has here in the eleventh chapter of I Corinthians given the remedy. And every believing woman in Jesus Christ that observes and obeys this command and church ordinance, it reinstates her again in favor and friendship with God and places her on equality with her husband, but not over her husband. And one more thought: Paul says the woman is to have "power on her head because of the angels." May I ask again, when is the woman to have power on her head because of the angels? I suppose according as some men are treating the subject, it would be from about 10 to 12 o'clock Sunday, and then probably a couple of hours Sunday evening. But as I see this all important question which so vitally concerns the believing woman in Christ, not so. Because the spiritual teaching of the scriptures to me is, if she fails to comply with the injunction of God's word, she is under her husband. Because Paul says in verse 11, nevertheless is the man not without the woman, neither the woman without man; (in what) in the Lord. Now I would like to know how you are going to get the woman in the Lord when she fails in complying with the instructions of the Lord. Yes, and all of the time, dear brethren, it is surely doing an injustice to this part of God's command to the believing woman, to say if she is to be covered all of the time the man is to be uncovered all the time. Because to me one concerns the spiritual and the other the natural. Yes, sir, I believe it is nice and also the proper thing for a man to do when he enters the church of any place of worship if it be possible to all for him to take his hat off. One of the greatest troubles is, far too many of our brethren are confiding their whole argument on just what Paul says concerning this matter here in I Cor. 11.

How could Paul go into details on everything that he mentioned in his fourteen letters that he wrote to the different local churches? If he had done that, it would have been as Christ said, the world could not contain the books. I know that satan would like to see us get mixed up on that question. So why should we squabble over a thing that is so plain? She had severed her relationship with God. This reinstates her back in favor and relationship with God. It removes her slaveship. It places her on equality with her husband. It shows her relationship to the angels. It shows her relationship. It shows power, because of the angels. Not only a few hours on the Lord's day while in church worship but all of the time.

OBITUARY

BIEDLER FULK

Biedler Jennings Fulk was born August 23, 1939 and died October 26, 1989 at the age of fifty years, two months and three days.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Hensley Fulk and three sons, Myron, Michael and Melvin Fulk and one daughter Melinda Fay Fulk. He also leaves to mourn his passing three brothers, Matthew, Howard and Boyd Fulk; also seven sisters, Naomi Custer, Marjorie Carr, Helen Whitmer, Hope Ritchie, Alma Conley, Joy Shiflet and Jane Conley.

Funeral services were held at Mountain Grove Church of the Brethren on October 26, 1989 with the services conducted by the Reverends James Dodds and Michael Vess. Burial was in the Mountain Grove Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

REMINDER TO YOUNG BRETHREN

With the current escalation of military activity by the United States Government, our young Brethren should be very careful in their daily lives. Those who turn eighteen should be prompt in registering at their Post Office and marking on that form that they are conscientious objectors, although no space is designated on the form for it.

If you have any questions or need for advice feel free to contact one of the members of the Civilian Service Board: Ray Reed, Chairman, 515-992-3031; Jacob Ness, Secretary, 717-741-1607; Allen Eberly, 717-354-9285; Robert Carpenter, 317-395-7879; Milton Cook, 714-845-6231.

THANK YOU

We want to thank all who sent cards, letters and gifts for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was all appreciated very much. May God bless you all.

Brother Paul and Sister Marguerite Marks

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will have a Revival, September 28 - October 7. Bro. Gordon Jamison is our Evangelist.

November 4 we expect to have a Harvest Meeting. Bro. Fred Johnson will be the speaker.

We would appreciate your presence and your prayers for these services.

Sis. Verda Lorenz, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LORD, PLEASE SHOW ME HOW

If I can gain one friend today;
To move each barrier from his way
To know what deed or thing to say,
Lord, please show me how.

If I can help a brother on:
To sing a new and sweeter song,
To smooth the road he walks upon,
Lord, please show me how.

If I can cause one heart to know
A calmer, brighter inner-glow;
Where only love and kindness show,
Lord, please show me how.

If I can still one troubled breast,
Long with doubts and fears oppressed,
To guide them to eternal rest,
Lord, please show me how.

- Elinor E. I. Imbraguglio

Selected by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

PATRIOTISM

When a nation is involved in warfare or some other great feat, there is a great swell of patriotic pride. It is good when citizens of a nation can have good will toward their nation.

Patriotic feelings also contain danger as well as benefits. When our nation receives our highest allegiance then we have failed to put God in the place where He belongs. God is to have the highest place in the heart, mind, body and soul of each person. It is obvious that those who have not accepted Him as Lord, Master and Savior do not have that feeling toward Him. But a Christian, who acknowledges Him as Lord, Master and Savior should not allow any other person or object to gain a higher place in his life than God's.

Christians need to set their priorities. They should set God at the top with family, work and country coming afterward. This is why Jesus said that we should seek the kingdom of God first, then we would receive the blessings of this life. Our seeking for God and His promotion in our lives should put Him above our desires, hopes and expectations of our country. As citizens of this country we should uphold it and appreciate it above all other countries in this world. But like Peter and John we should be willing to put God before all else. We must serve Him before we serve the nation.

As citizens of our country we have been blessed with many privileges, unknown in most countries around the world. Because of the nature of the founding and settling of this country, God's people have been drawn to this land where they can enjoy these privileges. We should be very thankful for all these privileges. It was the willingness of our Spiritual forefathers to suffer the

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inconveniences of emigration and settlement who helped secure these privileges, for this land had a special place for the religious minorities who came to worship God. We should be thankful for civil authorities who have continued to preserve these privileges for us. We must remember these are privileges not rights. Pilgrims are aliens. Aliens have no rights in the foreign countries they travel through on the way to their goal. As Christians we are pilgrims, strangers and aliens, we can only claim the privileges granted to us by this land we are passing through.

As aliens we still can be good citizens. While we cannot participate, as aliens, in the political process we can serve in many other ways. We should be honest, upright, moral, hard working people. Our lives should be productive. As productive inhabitants we further the financial condition of the country. In the New Testament Christians are admonished to pray often for the rulers and legislators of the land. There should be prayers that they would have wisdom in the conduct of the nation's affairs, so the nation could have a high moral tone and accomplish its goals in a way consistent with its history. There should be prayers offered that those in high places might personally have a relationship with God. We should also pray that the privileges that we have enjoyed would continue to be ours. It is often prayer that prevails in changing the public policy of the government.

As we pray, live honest productive lives, we are the true patriots of this country. Patriotism seeks the well being of the land and government. There is no higher goal than the translation of God's will and Word into our everyday lives. If our everyday lives are as they should be, we are then the best of citizens. Flag waving, militarism and super nationalism are the usual ingredients of patriotism, but these often lead to irrational actions which often become immoral and unchristian. These actions often are the result of or lead to military action, which involves the use of force, as a threat at the best, and often leads to killing and maiming at the worst.

Christians cannot be involved in this type of citizenship and patriotism. Those of the world will be involved for this is the natural result of their lifestyles. In the midst of this darkness, the Christian must let his light shine. Although it will be misinterpreted and misunderstood, it will by contrast be a bright light showing a better way to all. The best patriotism is that which is directed not toward the fatherland but toward the Father in Heaven.

In the midst of military preparedness, it is hard to not get caught up in this patriotic fervor, but it is necessary as a Christian to live a life consistent with our Father's will. Our greatest patriotic service will in the end be the service we render to God.

OUR CHURCH DOCTRINE

The writing of this article is prompted by several factors. I have been a member of the Church for over seventy years. I have witnessed many changes in that span of time.

I have been an Elder for many years. I promised God and the Church I would uphold the Doctrines of the Church, which I have faithfully tried to do. I realize there are those members who firmly contend for our polity. There are those who seemingly lack respect for it.

Webster defines "Polity" as "A form or constitution of a government or an institution or organization." Most organizations, religious or otherwise have a code, bylaws, principles or creeds to go by to promote uniformity of practice among the numerous bodies being a part of that organization.

I always enjoyed laboring in my Master's Vineyard. I have been an official for over fifty years. I am in no way trying to brag, because I have nothing whatsoever to boast about. I feel my weakness and failures many times. Many times it was very necessary to go to my secret closet and there ask God to forgive.

I do not know how much longer God will permit me to live. I take this means now, to impress upon the minds of the Brotherhood, the wisdom of our foreparents, who over fifty years ago, faithfully delving into the depth of God's Word, foresaw conditions coming into Christianity, teachings and practices contrary to God's Word.

Our Church officials, wanting to be on the safe side, wanting to follow and obey God's Will, and to continue practicing earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, (Jude 3) through prayers and tears, determined the course our Church should take. I believe they were guided and led by the Holy Spirit.

They had at that time, the insight to foresee the on-coming challenge for Christians to overcome the world and not be overcome by the world. What they were thinking and fearing fifty years ago came to pass. As various denominations have departed far from their once firm standing, and because Satan, the enemy of our soul, is out seeking whom he may devour, I truly encourage the young and middle aged members to take a strong and determined stand for our Church and having done all to stand.

Why? Because the older members are fast going to their Eternal Reward. In their leaving, THE TORCH IS PASSED to these younger members. The responsibility for the future Church will rest upon their shoulders.

There was a definite need over the Brotherhood fifty years ago for a uniform practice for our Church. I believe there is a greater need today.

Many formerly fundamental denominations no longer maintain their conservative and non-conforming principles. The world has made great inroads in those churches. We do not want that falling away in our beloved Church.

We want to walk in the old paths and maintain the ancient landmarks. We must keep in mind that man's ways are not God's ways and God's ways are not man's ways.

The daily news indicates to me that we are heading for a fierce nation to nation confrontation. Possibly leading to the Battle of Armageddon. When that battle takes place, the time of the end will be near. Then, and if our death should be before, we want to make sure OUR ANCHOR will hold.

As we study the Doctrine of our Church, it is definitely based upon God's Word. Interpretation and practice over the Brotherhood is essential that we may be as one, as God and Christ are one. John 17:11.

There are many scriptures that, if obeyed, will promote unity. That is the purpose of God for having them recorded.

Prov. 22:28, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

I Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Phil. 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;" What was the mind of Christ?

John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Jesus gave us a good example that we should surpress our will and do God's Will.

Phil. 3:16, "Nevertheless, whereunto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule,..."

These and other scriptures are given as a means to preserve the faith and identity of the New Testament Church. Jesus paid for the Church with His own shed blood, He gave His life that we might gain Eternal life. To follow His Will is not a great task. Jesus, Himself said, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

In determining our doctrine the Dunkard Brethren Officials started with the Doctrine of the Mother Church as on record in 1911, based on the New Testament. In years gone by, the Mother Church grew by leaps and bounds. Little by little there was a departure from much of their doctrine.

They, who were dissatisfied with those departures were instrumental in forming our organization. Starting with that doctrine of 1911, the Dunkard Brethren added to it, clearer explanations and items as time and change warranted.

As a parting thought, may we value and regard our Church very highly. I feel it is the safe path to go and if we are obedient, we will win the victory over Satan. May we be in harmony with the hymn, "I Love Thy Church, O God."

I pray that each member will uphold, pray for and help hold the fort until Jesus comes.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, OH 44718

JUDGMENT — NOW OR THEN?

We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. There the fire will be applied. Everything that is not eternal will burn up. The life of Jesus that was worked into us will stand. What His spirit did through us will stand. All else will burn. Works of the fallen nature will burn. Works that were only the religious nature of man will burn. Religious deeds that were done out of ambition or glory-seeking will also be destroyed.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." (II Corinthians 13:5) If we truly judge ourselves now, we can change, and not be judged later. The desire of God is "to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." (Jude 24).

We all have a problem, though. How can we really judge our hearts? The heart is deceitful above all things. How can we be sure that we stand blameless before the Lord? How can we know that we are not just deceived?

The Holy Spirit searches the hearts. We need him to search our hearts, and to shine His spotlight in our hearts. This is a very sober thing — sometimes it can almost cause a person to despair of changing. This is something that we need to keep requesting from the Lord. If we are serious about Jesus, we need to see ourselves as He sees us. This is a prayer that He will answer. He answers so that we can be changed.

There are also some questions that I can ask myself, with the help of the Holy Spirit. The answers to these questions can be very revealing if one is honest.

Do I have the form and appearance of godliness, but none of the power? Or, do I have only words, but no power? (The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.)

Do I actually love the Lord? Is there a passion in my heart for Him? Or, am I being religious just because I am afraid of hellfire? If this is the case, I am religious out of complete selfishness, and not out of love for God.

Do I spend time in God's Word? Do I love to fellowship with the Lord? If not, why? Is it because I have fallen in love with the world? Or, have I fallen in love with money? Do I desire wealth? If so, the Word of God cannot have a place within me, and the Holy Spirit is grieved.

When I act, who directs my steps? If it is money, then money has become my god.

Do I live as a citizen of earth, instead of heaven? Do I live in the gleam of eternity? Do I truly love Him, or is it all just a religious act after all? Do I have the heart of a bride toward Jesus? If not, why would I expect to be a part of His bride?

Brothers and Sisters: it is indeed a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. And, His judgment will begin with His house. Let us forsake our lukewarm affection for Jesus Christ. Let us know Him — let us press on to know Him. He desires mercy, and not sacrifice. He desires the knowledge of Him more than sacrificial offerings. Let us make use of our chance on earth to know Him. The time is short. For further consideration: I Corinthians 3:11-15, Revelation 3:14-22, Hosea 6: 1-6, and Isaiah 40:28-31.

Brother Dean Shaffer

A LIVELY HOPE

I Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

The word translated "lively" is taken from the Greek word "Zao" which can have the literal meaning of "to live." Therefore we could have titled our thoughts "A LIVING HOPE."

Today the majority who call themselves Brethren confine our traditional Brethren faith to an outdated tradition which is only good for use in plays or mock worship services. They would relegate it to books for historical purposes only. According to them, the only use for it today is to make a comparison to show how ridiculous our Brethren beliefs were.

We contend that our Brethren faith is a lively (living) hope. It is a blessed hope that recognizes the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although the Lord Jesus Christ was God the Son, on

several occasions in Holy Scripture He identified Himself with those who are mere mortals. He was one hundred per cent human as well as one hundred per cent divine. In one sense, therefore, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ was the God of the Apostle Peter and the other New Testament writers. And the God of the New Testament writers is the God of our Brethren forefathers. This God never changes. Therefore if He is our God we should still be holding to the Brethren faith.

Our Brethren forefathers held to the truth that God was the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ in a special way. They did not question the reality of the virgin birth. It was because of the fact that they held the Lord Jesus Christ in such high esteem that they covenanted together to follow Him and all His teachings. They were not willing to relegate His teachings to laws which can be broken at will or to fit them into a supposed "postponed kingdom." They believed with all their heart that His teachings were truly a lively hope for Christians of all time and place.

Our Brethren forefathers believed it was because of God's abundant mercy that we are what we are. They were a people who taught and practiced humility. Yet in their humility they were not afraid to share the good news of the Gospel with others. While they are accused of being clanish and withdrawn from society during a large period of their history, they were always evangelistic minded. It is true that speaking the German language in an English speaking society may have hampered their effectiveness. But they had more converts even at that time than we usually see today!

Our Brethren forefathers taught the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ without question. They taught that He came forth with the same body that they laid in the tomb, but that it was glorified. While there is the sense that our faith is a living faith that cannot die, it is also a fact that it had died in many gatherings. Just as we have a lively hope of salvation by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, so we need a resurrection of our Brethren faith in one sense.

We could certainly not confine this lively hope to the Brethren faith. It is because of the fact that this is where our heart and membership is that we have shared this concern. We would now like to think of this lively hope in a more general way.

While we have the hope of life eternal, most of us consider the gift of life as we know it now as something precious. Our respect for life has led us to take a stand against abortion and the taking of human life in times of war. The fact that we have a lively hope should also cause us to desire to keep our bodies free from moral filth and harmful substances. While more is needed than a good moral life to reach Heaven, it is a good testimony when we strive to

live good clean lives in a society that seems to take delight in destroying the body.

We often think of children as being lively in contrast to those who have grown older in years. Do we as Christians show life? We are not thinking so much of emotional type meetings although we are not opposed to expressing our joy in Christ. We confess that the cares of this life often cause us to display sadness and a lack of zeal. While it is wrong to "pump up emotion" and we must be honest in our outward appearance, we will not impress others of our joy in Christ if it is never displayed. Do we have a lively (living) hope or one that is dead? Does the name of Jesus Christ ever pass our lips in everyday speech? Others are free to use it as a curse word, do we give it praise? Do we really believe we worship a living Christ who is able to supply our every need according to His riches in glory?

A lively (living) hope is more than hope as we usually use the word. It is a guarantee if we accept the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, are scripturally baptized and live a life of obedience. May this lively hope cause us to desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in a more perfect way.

Brother James M. Hite
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THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Christian Giving

J. H. Moore

The true worshipers of God, in all ages, have been noted for their liberality. Even before the giving of the law, we find Abraham making an offering of the "tenth part of all" to Melchisedec, priest of the most high God (Heb. 7:1-2). The generous giving for the erection of the temple, for the support of the elaborate system of worship, for sacrifices, for offerings, and for other purposes, shows a spirit of liberality.

Then, all through the Old Testament we find traces of this spirit, and especially do we find it in the teaching of the faithful prophets. In this, none of them, however, surpasses what is recorded in Mal. 3:10, where we read: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." God has never permitted the liberality of his faithful people to go unnoticed. Even the offering of the poor

widow, two mites, — received much more than a passing consideration. What she did has been made a matter of special record for the encouragement of all future generations (Mark 12:42-44).

While the law of tithing may not have been carried over, and made the rule of giving for the new dispensation, still a far better rule has been recommended, and even emphasized. This rule will be found in I Cor. 16:2: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." The man who lays by as "God hath prospered him" will always be found a liberal giver. Paul makes this further reference to giving: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7). It will be observed that giving is urged as a heart work. One must purpose in his heart what he is going to give, then he should give cheerfully, or as the apostle says: "If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not" (II Cor. 8:12).

Every Christian should be a liberal and a cheerful giver. He should train himself that way. His heart should be in this as well as in any other service. He should think the matter over, and then purpose in his heart just what he is going to do. He is in this world to do good, and he can help with his money as well as in other ways. There are the poor to feed, the naked to clothe, and Sunday-school work to support, the church expenses to meet, houses of worship to build, institutions of charity and education to be established, and the Gospel to be preached both in this and other lands. All of these afford the Christian an excellent opportunity to do good as he goes through the world, and in order that he may have something with which to aid, in many good lines of work, it is important that he early in life adopt some systematic rule for setting apart a reasonable part of his earnings. He can set apart one-tenth, or even more. At any rate, the giving should be regulated by the way the Lord is prospering him.

Giving, and especially systematic giving, is good for the soul. It makes one feel that he is living for some higher purpose than merely self-interest. As a good old Quaker one time said: "We go through this world but the one time, and while so doing we should do all the good we can." This should be the feeling of every Christian man and woman. All should resolve to be of some value to suffering humanity. Liberal and systematic giving is the very best antidote against covetousness, — one of the worst sins in the world. In fact, it is classed with drunkenness and fornication, and is also a form of idolatry. Those who, in good faith, and cheerfully set apart a reasonable share of their earnings or income, for deserving causes, will find giving one of the greatest blessings of

life. It will shield them from the awful temptation of avarice and covetousness, and enable them most fully to realize that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35).

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1930

CHRIST'S COMING

Reuben Shroyer

The greatest fact of past history is that Jesus Christ lived in the world. The greatest event of the present is that Jesus is now in Heaven making intercessions for us. The most important event of the future is that Jesus is coming back to earth again. Just so surely as his ascension from earth to heaven was witnessed on Mt. Olive even so his descent from heaven to earth will be witnessed. Even as earth once was the scene of his suffering and sorrow so surely is it yet to be the scene of his triumph and glory. Dear reader, are you looking for Christ's coming? Suppose you had a friend who just before he started on a long journey to a far country, promised you that upon his return he would give you a princely inheritance, would you not be looking, even longing, for his return? Even so our absent Lord has promised a glorious inheritance when he comes again to those who love him and look for his appearing. At his appearing the dead in Christ will be raised up and the righteous living will be caught up and changed. (I Thess. 4:15-16.) Yes, there will be given us a new body, like unto his own glorious body. (Phil. 3:21.) "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his own glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (I John 3:2.) "... We know that when he shall appear we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is." Does not the bride long for the day when her lover will come and fulfill his engagement to her. No gifts from him, however beautiful or rare, can wholly satisfy her longings but when he comes she is happy with him. Remember that the Lord is the bridegroom and the church is his bride. If you care more for other things than for Christ's coming it may be that your love for him has grown cold or you are trusting on some other, instead of being joined in spirit unto the Lord. You may ask what difference does it make whether I am watching for Jesus' coming or not. If we are God's children then whatever concerns him should concern us, and the coming of Christ is mentioned oftener than many other things in the scriptures. In the Bible blood is mentioned 315 times. Death 300 times. Baptism 80 times. The second coming of Christ 319 times in the New Testament, besides

it is referred to in many places in the Old Testament. The second coming of Christ is mentioned 15 times as often as the resurrection. And yet how few sermons are delivered on this important teaching? Again you ask what difference does it make. I answer it is God's command. He bids us watch. The Lord would have his people to be in continual expectation of his coming. (Matt. 24:42-44) "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Luke 12:35-37.) "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." (Luke 21:34-36.) "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." If Jesus may not come at any moment, why then did the Lord command us so often to watch? If Christ's coming is imminent and will be at such a time when men are not looking for it is it not important that we watch at every season? If love to Christ is supreme we will delight to obey everything he commands. Jesus declared: "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." (Revised Version) When Jesus instituted the communion in that upper room in Jerusalem, he reminds us of his coming. (I Cor. 11:26.) "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til he come." The last prayer recorded in the Scriptures is a prayer for the return of the Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20.) "... Even so, come, Lord Jesus." This is the blessed hope and eager desire of every true child of God.

Unbelievers scoff at the doctrine of Christ's coming. "... Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." (II Peter 3:3-4.) The Psalmist said blessed is the man that sitteth not in the seat of the scornful. The faithful bride forsakes all others and cleaves only unto him whose name she has taken.

Brethren, if you have forsaken the world and are cleaving only to Christ whose name you have taken, then the thought of his coming will be your heart's delight. Dear reader, signs multiply on every hand, which show that the day is approaching. Soon, yes, very

soon, we may be called upon to give an account of our stewardship. Are we ready to meet him? Consider whether you are keeping the lamp of your profession filled and brightly burning. Oh, let us live soberly and righteously, and Godly in this present evil age. Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us be faithful in all over which he has appointed us. And when he shall appear, may we from his own hands receive the crown which he reserves for all those who love his appearing.

OBITUARY

LOYAL MARTIN

Bro. Loyal H. Martin, son of William and Susie (Cummins) Martin, was born October 21, 1897, and departed this life on July 24, 1990, at the age of 92 years, 9 months and 3 days in the Williams County Community Hospital in Montpelier, Ohio. As a youth he accepted Christ as his Saviour through baptism and became a member of the Silver Creek Church of the Brethren. In 1926 he and his companion became charter members of the Pleasant Ridge Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church. On February 16, 1918, he was united in marriage to Vera M. Throne and this union was broken by death in March 1985, after more than sixty-seven years. Loyal retired in 1971 after fifty-three years as operator and owner of the Throne Monument Works in Pioneer, Ohio.

For more than forty years Loyal served as a member of the Board of directors of the National Bank of Montpelier, for more than twenty years and at the time of his death, he was chairman of the board, having attended his last meeting on June 19, 1990. For a number of years he was a member of the Pioneer School Board.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Stanley L. and MaryAnn and Carmon F. and Maxine of Pioneer, two sisters, Mrs. Howard (Blanche) McNamee and Mrs. Hazel Loutsenhizer, both of Bryan, Ohio, and one sister-in-law, Mabel Martin of Pioneer, eight grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild. Preceding him in death were one brother, Earl, and a sister, Helen Armbruster.

He is gone but not forgotten —
All his tasks on earth are done —
Hard he worked toward each endeavor
Till his great reward was won.

See, he sleeps in peaceful comfort
And his loved ones shed a tear.
Gather closer, gather closer,
He has nothing now to fear.

For he rests; he rests in comfort,
He has only gone to sleep,
We who loved him linger near him
But we do not need to weep.

Death is just a natural thing, like a closing of a door,
As we start upon a journey to a new and distant shore —
So let your grief be softened and yield not to despair,
We have only placed our loved one in the loving Father's care.

Services were conducted at the Pleasant Ridge Church on July 27, 1990, by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Elder Dennis St. John and Bro. Tom St. John, followed by interment at the Floral Grove Cemetery, Pioneer, Ohio.

We would like to thank all the Brethren, Sisters, friends and relatives for the prayers, cards, letters, telephone calls and visits to the hospital and nursing home during the illness and death of our dear Father. We also are thankful for the many, many floral arrangements and to those who came from a distance for the funeral. It is wonderful to have so many Christian friends who care.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The new address of Elder D. Paul Reed is 5209 Old Pike Road, Pilot, VA 24138.

Elder Harley Rush's new address is P.O. Box 163, Converse, IN 46919.

Bro. Mark Cordrey's address now is 7154 Covert Road, Modesto, CA 95351.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation plans a Revival Meeting from September 23 through September 30, Lord willing. Elder Hayes Reed from the Modesto Congregation will be our speaker.

Pray for us, that believers will be strengthened and sinners saved.

Come worship the Lord with us. Let us magnify His name together!

We rejoice that two young men were baptized in July. Todd Wilkerson and Shawn Marks accepted Jesus as their Savior while at Youth Retreat at Camp Colorado, Colorado and were baptized

upon their return home. Sinners are still answering the call of the Master! Praise His name!

Sister Grace Reed, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation is looking forward to having Bro. Robert Carpenter from Plevna, Indiana to hold our revival meetings. Revival starts October 9 and ends with Lovefeast October 16. Come and enjoy these services with us. Pray for those who have not yet found our wonderful Savior.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Dayton Congregation plans a mini revival October 17 through 21 with Bro. Virgil Leatherman and Bro. Paul Reed. Lovefeast on Saturday evening with examination service starting at 4 p.m. Closing Sunday morning with fellowship meal following. We cordially invite all who can come.

Sister Mary Rounds, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank all who remembered me with cards and most of all for the prayers during my recent stay in the hospital.

Thank you. May God bless each one.

In Christian love
Sister Mamie Leatherman



A certain minister had a somewhat lofty manner of expressing himself. In the course of visiting, he called at the cottage of an elderly female, who invited him to "come in and sit down." The doctor, who wanted a salutation of more flourish, said, in stately tones: "Woman, I am a servant of the Lord, come to speak with you on the concerns of your soul." Then ye'll be humble like your Master," replied the old woman.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1990

October 7 - Risen With Christ - Colossians 3:1-11.

1. How can we be risen with Christ? Romans 6:1-7.
2. What are the ambitions and affections of one risen with Christ? verse 1 and 2.

October 14 - The Bond of Perfectness - Colossians 3:12-25.

1. What is the bond of perfectness? verse 14.
2. Notice the bond of perfectness in the home!

October 21 - The Open Door - Colossians 4:1-18.

1. What door did Paul desire to open?
2. Are we using the "open doors" God gives us?

October 28 - The Power of the Gospel - I Thessalonians 1:1-10.

1. What is the primary subject of this Book?
2. How is the Gospel powerful?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1990

October 7 - Sources of Temptation - Gen. 3:1-6, Matt. 4:1-11, Eph. 6:11.

1. Who is the source of all temptation?
2. How can temptation affect us? James 1:13-15.

October 14 - Cross Bearing - Matt. 10:38, Matt. 11:28-30, Luke 14:26-27.

1. Define a "cross."
2. How important is it that we take up our cross? Matt. 10:38.

October 21 - Possessions - Matt. 6:19-21, Luke 12:15-21.

1. What do we have that are really ours? James 1:17.
2. What should our attitude be toward possessions? I Cor. 4:2.

October 28 - The House on a Rock - Matt. 7:24-29, Luke 6:46-49.

1. What is "the house" symbolic of?
2. What or who is the rock?

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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

IN THE DARK

In the dark of the night
You can't see ahead,
So trust in your Master;
By His hand be led.

In the dark of the night,
Don't forget to pray.
You'll find that your Savior
Close to you will stay.

In the dark of the night
When troubles seem great,
Ask your Lord for patience;
Cast off every weight.

In the dark of the night
He will strengthen you,
Bring you through all trials,
And rejoice with you.

- Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

THE UNEXPECTED

Our lives, day by day, often seem to be very much the same. There is little variety and may even be thought to be a little boring. We may get the idea, at least subconsciously, if not consciously, that we are in control of our lives. Therefore we may not have the respect for God that we should have.

Just when we think that all is going along smoothly and we are doing pretty well in taking care of ourselves, the unexpected happens. That unexpected event can take many forms and can be more or less severe. The unexpected can affect us financially, socially, physically or Spiritually. In a moment, all can be changed for the rest of our lives and may even affect our eternal lives.

The unexpected may be disease, accident or death. It may be financial reverses, economic changes, unemployment, job changes, plant closings or many other things that can happen in the business or work situation of a person or a family. There may be conditions that affect a whole geographical area, such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes or other disasters.

Sometimes, the unexpected includes mechanical failure. Today we rely very heavily on mechanical devices, whether bicycles, automobiles, farm machinery or industrial equipment. Anything mechanical can fail. A part may break or the operator may use it unsafely or other conditions may cause it to operate in a hazardous manner. When we depend upon these machines, we unexpectedly will be delayed, stopped, injured or even killed.

Not all unexpected events are undesirable. Some things happen without prior planning that make us glad rather than sad. There may be an unexpected gift, raise, promotion or similar economic

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gain. For the Church there may be an increase in attendance, interest and support. There may be unexpected visitors, relocated members or converts.

Why do these unexpected events happen to us? Why doesn't life just go on as before? The unexpected can cause a lot of stress, sorrow and problems. Is there good that can come from these situations?

As we live our daily lives we may become too confident of our own ability to run our lives. We may become so confident that we lose our reliance upon God. While we may speak of faith, we actually are depending upon our own power. So it is for our good that challenges come into our lives to show us that we are not as self-reliant as we might think. Anytime we are arrested in our mistaken notions concerning our own power, it is a great blessing. God may bring some short term problems and pains into our lives so we can gain Spiritually and eternally.

When a person realizes his lack of power, it helps him to realize that he needs Supernatural help. The Christian, who has not remained close to God, may be forced to realize that he needs a closer relationship if he is to be able to meet unexpected problems.

Those outside the Ark of Safety often lack the physical and mental strength needed to meet the struggles of life. When the unexpected hits, they are totally overwhelmed. Those who have no Spiritual resources may do desperate things when confronted with these extra situations. Some have lost their mental balance completely. Others have struck out wildly to get even or to relieve the stress that the unexpected problem brings to them. Others are made to examine their lives and realize that they are in need of a Saviour and sustainer of their lives. When the unexpected works to draw someone to a saving knowledge of the Lord and gives them the desire to lead a life consistent with that relationship, then it is a hard lesson that leads to a good end.

When the unexpected comes, often we do not know how to meet it. We may fret and stew. We may become angry. We may become isolated and do nothing. We may do almost anything but turn it over to God, so He can be our strength. With His strength, there still will be decisions and actions for us, but we will be stronger to do those needed things. After the problem is turned over to Him, it is amazing how help comes in the midst of our need.

The unexpected comes into all our lives sometime. How are you going to meet it? Can you meet it in the confidence that is God-given? Or will it be in fear? Meet it as God would have you, with Him by your side.

THE RESURRECTED LIFE

It is stated in I Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

The Apostle Paul was an inspired writer, author of several of the New Testament books. Yet, he, along with his visions, could not fully describe the glories of a resurrected life, of the one who was and is a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Psalms 17, the writer David speaks of many discouragements in life. Speaking of the coming Resurrection, he concludes in verse 15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Again Paul states in I Corinthians 15:51-53, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Job endured much persecution and many trials in his life, but he never lost his integrity. He was looking forward to something better. He expressed himself in Job 14:14 thus, "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come."

Many scriptures concur that the resurrected life is beyond the human mind to comprehend. The resurrected life will live on and on throughout Eternity, never ending.

Those that have a part in the first Resurrection, will have the likeness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The inheritors of God will lack nothing. David states in Psalms 36:8, "They shall be ABUNDANTLY satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures."

When man was created, God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Romans 6:5, "For if we be planted (baptized) together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." I Corinthians 15:49, "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

We have a two-fold teaching in the New Testament, one, A HEAVEN TO GAIN and a HELL TO SHUN. There are two powers wanting to work in each of our lives, the power of God and the power of Satan.

We each must choose which power we want to prevail in our lives. Our choice will determine our future destiny. Joshua had to

choose whom he would serve. Joshua 24:15, "... choose you this day whom ye will serve;... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." May that be our earnest desire, to serve the Lord, unreservedly.

We all make mistakes. When we do error, and confess it to God, He will forgive us. When forgiven, we must strive to keep from sinning.

If we are faithful to our vows, and make a consistent effort to live an acceptable life before God and man, doing the very best we can IT IS THEN ONLY "... BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH: AND NOT OF YOURSELVES: it is THE GIFT OF GOD." Ephesians 2:8.

Any individual trying to do good, meets up, at times, with many disappointments. The Apostle Paul referred to life as running a race. Hindrances in running a race, should not stop the runner, he must run regardless, as the prize is not at the beginning, nor in the middle, but at THE END OF THE RACE.

We have a beautiful summary in I John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

We too, then can say as David, "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Brother Paul R. Myers
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The THINGS we have (or have us!)

One of the very obvious characteristics of the fallenness of the world in our time is the attitude people have toward possessions. Our Western society is based on materialism. Everything has been reduced to "matter" and things of the Spirit have been abolished. People live to "get" and "have." And, unfortunately, I am not just talking about the secular world. This mentality has come into the church in a big way. Of course, the idea is not totally new. Jesus and the Apostles had to deal with this attitude in their day. Jesus' teaching on the rich fool who pulled down his barns to build greater ones was prompted by this attitude. Jesus warned him... and us... to be on our guard against this kind of greed... because "Our life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions."

In the book of Ecclesiastes, materialism is described as "meaningless, a chasing after the wind." But in spite of this, we still deem it a

truth that well-being consists in the abundance of possessions. The wealthy are considered happy and the poor as unhappy.

Advertising is one of Satan's greatest tools for spreading materialism. It conditions people to the idea that they must be constantly striving to purchase nonessentials and "in" things. These are carefully planned psychological campaigns aimed to manipulate the way you think. You begin to think that you have to have the product whether you need it or not. It is very possible in advertising to create a synthetic need with sophisticated techniques. Of course this is done by appealing to your social advantage, assurance of happiness, sexual prowess or patriotic loyalty.

"To live to have" is to break the tenth Commandment... "Thou shalt not covet." It is also the cause of most of the financial problems in families in the 1990's. This makes the parable of the rich fool up-to-date. It certainly was not wrong for the farmer to have a bumper harvest. It was not wrong for him even to pull down his barns to build bigger ones in which to store the grain. What was wrong was his attitude of ease of life. Jesus actually called that the reality of being poor. The farmer had laid up lots of material things for himself but he was spiritually bankrupt. What he thought would satisfy him would bring his death spiritually and physically.

I have heard that through a misprint in a good old hymn that says... "Land me safe on Canaan's shore," it by mistake read, "Land MY safe on Canaan's shore." That is the attitude of many people and it is soul-destroying.

Has the water of materialism gotten into our boat? Have materialistic standards and values taken over our thinking and our goals? Are we communicating that attitude to others in the church? As Christians, our greatest ambition, even in our vocation, should be to center our life around God's will for them. If that includes a large salary, praise the Lord and use it correctly for His glory. The Scripture does not tell us it is a sin to have some wealth but the sin is our use of it and our attitude toward it. If it holds us back from a complete commitment to Christ it is a hinderance. It might well be the acid test as to our Christian sincerity. Do you love Jesus more than money?

Actually, wealth is a very relative thing. A poor man in our society would be very rich in many parts of the world. I am not judging as to what qualifies as wealth but I leave that to your convictions as determined by the Scripture.

The real wealth, then, is spiritual. Work hard for that kind of treasure. The song that says,

"I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold.

I'd rather have Jesus than have riches untold.

I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.

I'd rather be led by his nail-pierced hands.

sums up the Lord's evaluation of this matter. When you really know Christ, you also know what true riches are. I know this sounds rather old-fashioned, but why? The media and modern educational system have taught you differently. If you understand spiritual contentment and richness, you will have just the opposite of the people with the fever of discontent and covetousness that surrounds you today.

Let Jesus be Lord. Give Him your life totally. Surrender your money and things to Him. He owns them anyway. You WILL be accounted worthy or unworthy by how you have used... or misused... your belongings. Convert your monetary assets into spiritual ones. God knows about inflation. He knows about mortgages. And... He has been looking after His people for thousands of years. Trust Him and His teachings. Follow the lifestyle that will lead you to eternal life with Jesus in the age to come.

Brother Len Wertz

THE BLESSINGS OF FORGIVENESS

Psalms 86:5, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."

Luke 23:34, "Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do..."

Acts 7:59-60, "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

Matthew 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

The subject of forgiveness, which the Holy Spirit has seemed to lay upon our heart, has been written about in books and articles by individuals much more competent than myself. If, as some teach, forgiveness includes actually forgetting the wrong that has been done against you, we have a long way to go before we can claim maturity in this area.

When we first started to put this article together in our mind we planned to put the forgiveness of God last in the article. But we believe the Holy Spirit spoke to our heart and showed us that there is no true forgiveness if we have not experienced the forgiveness of God in our own life first. God is good. He is all goodness and all that He does, though it may not seem like it to us at the time, is for our good. Because He is good He is ready to forgive. Unlike man, God does not hold any personal grudges. He is plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Him. We are glad that Romans 10:13 assures us, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

We must be willing to forgive those who do evil against us. Jesus Christ, God the Son, gave us the perfect example of forgiving our enemies on the cross of Calvary. Stephen, a mortal man just like you and me, knew the joy of forgiving those who stoned him. While very few, if any, of us will have to forgive someone for taking our life, most of us will experience a time when someone does us wrong in act or word.

Can we truly forgive someone who does not ask our forgiveness? We have heard both sides of this subject put forth as Scriptural truth. We believe that we must be willing to forgive anyone who does us wrong and have a spirit of forgiveness even if forgiveness is not asked for. Yet complete forgiveness cannot be known until both the injured and the one who brought about the injury confess the need for forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not optional. If we refuse to forgive, God will not forgive us. This should be a very solemn truth for us to ponder. We must also remember that only God can forgive sin. No man has the power to forgive our sins and we cannot forgive sins that God will not forgive. There is no sin that God will not forgive (except the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit). But God cannot forgive a sin that is not confessed along with a sincere desire for change. No matter how much "new light" or new revelation is claimed by man, God will never go contrary to His Holy Word.

No matter how "spiritual" a congregation may claim to be there will be disputes caused by differences in personal opinions and theology. Without the spirit of forgiveness there will be no true harmony among the people of God. We would emphasize again that forgiveness does not include compromise with sin. However, the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 2 makes it clear that we must be willing to forgive an individual who has repented of a sin against the Church. Although most of us are probably guilty of doing this, we should not bring up past sins of individuals who have repented and been restored to fellowship. On the other hand, we believe there is such a thing as taking responsibility for our sins. If a

person in leadership falls into sin that would harm the cause of God he should be removed from office and willingly step down from that position for life.

The lack of forgiveness has caused church splits and various problems within congregations. When we fail to forgive we are the loser. Lack of forgiveness will lead to hatred which in turn will bring spiritual weakness to our life and may even bring the judgement of God upon us. If you have never experienced the forgiveness of God upon your life accept the shed blood of Christ and be baptized, to assure eternal life if you continue in obedience. Let us be forgiving of one another that love may abound and the blessing of God may be upon us.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

ARE THE DUNKARDS MERELY A REGIONAL CHURCH?

Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in ALL THE WORLD for a witness unto ALL NATIONS; and then shall the end come."

In thinking about this article we had much to consider. Our goal in writing is to get a point across without alienation of our audience. I write in order to improve myself, and if others are helped, so much the better. For years I wrote for the Monitor without being a member of the Dunkard Brethren. Anything I said that was critical could have been passed off as criticism from an outsider. But now I write with more to gain, because I have more of a stake in what is written. As a member all I have to say must be constructive.

Our topic is a touchy one because as Christians who live in the world but are not of the world we want to take the gospel to the world but we do not want to be tainted by the world. Many people are critical of us because they feel that our beliefs, including the way we dress and live, are largely of German origin. We have attracted mostly European people. We have not seen many of other races and cultures coming. Most people, including Christians, relate to those of their own background. It is true that most Dunkard names are of German origin, but we must face some other facts.

We have not gotten too far outside the boundaries we filled back in 1926, and we will not see large growth, but I believe we will see people saved and embracing the teachings of the church. It is our

responsibility to spread the gospel. There are many modern methods which modern churches have used to increase numbers. But they have not made a spiritual people, and most have not experienced a true conversion. Bible methods are the only ones we should use, and it is wrong to go to other churches for our methods. Let us continue to pursue godliness and, as Christ did, let us look to the world with compassion. We dare not look down our nose at them, for we ourselves are not perfect.

We likewise need to support and uphold those tiny Dunkard congregations with very few members. We must pray for them and visit them. We must support our own congregations and lift up one another and express our unity with one another. We must believe that God can do great things through us if we are willing. There will be people who will be drawn to us if we express our Christian love one to another, and to the world. If we are obedient God will give us opportunities to reach out to others, realizing that only fit stewards will receive spiritual responsibilities.

Are we only a regional, German church seeking our own and satisfied with ourselves, or do we accept spiritual admonition to reach out in love to the dying world around us? Do not reject God's call to teach and preach to others who do not look like you or whose skin and hair are different from our own. Be assured that we truly have a blessed Saviour to share with others. We cannot and dare not keep Him to ourselves.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1930

MAKING THE BEST USE OF PERSONAL VIEWS

A. G. Fahnestock

The Apostle Paul, before his conversion, thought he knew and understood, and seemingly, thought that he was a great man; but after the scales fell from his eyes he got a new vision that displayed to him his former ignorance. He submitted to the law of correction, and therefore, confessed that he knew nothing; that he could do nothing but through Christ who strengthened him; that he had need of crucifying the flesh daily.

I am glad for personal views, providing the individual will not attempt to force them upon others; but will present them for consideration, correction and approval, to the organization which it affects.

In years gone by, we discovered that there were individuals in various organizations who, having personal views, attempted to

enforce them upon their fellowmen without recognition from the head of the organization, and the consequence was, that trouble was created and government destroyed. I am writing this with the hope in view that the Dunkard Brethren shall profit by other's mistakes. Therefore, if we have any likes or dislikes, personal views, let us present them to the Annual Conference for approval, and not until approved, try to enforce them by gathering a few to our company, and then trying to carry them out in our local congregation. Under such conditions we would be bound to destroy church government.

Unity is the strength of power. But we want to be united on gospel principles. Therefore, if any of us see anything that the gospel teaches, anything that will bring us closer to our God, let us all have the benefit by presenting to Conference for adoption. We want to be right and stay right. I consider it an honor to the individual who will thoroughly weigh his or her personal views in the scales of truth, reason, helpfulness, unity and, if found worthy, present them through the legal channel for consideration, correction and adoption.

About ten years ago, as I still remember, there was a certain one who made a great deal of noise concerning his own personal views, which created some trouble. This individual was asked why he did not present his views to the church and ask to have them adopted and his reply was "It would do no good." Our conclusion then was, that either he had no confidence in his views, or else no confidence in the church of his choice, and our recommendation was, that, if his views did not have enough virtue to be put on trial, he better not be so noisy, and if he felt sure that the head of the church could not be trusted, he would better get where the questions will be solved in the light of the Gospel.

You say we would burden the church with personal views. Listen reader, it will be better to burden the church with lawful, reasonable and helpful questions than to burden our church with complicated troubles.

Let us ever STRIVE TOGETHER endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of faith. This will make good church government. May God help us all to this end.

PROTECT FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Joseph W. Tkach

Surely one of the most respected strengths of the United States Constitution is the guarantee of religious freedom in its Bill of Rights. At the same time as Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are experiencing new expressions of religious freedom. Americans should be reminded that the freedom to worship God is as

fundamental a part of the founding of the United States as any other single aspect of freedom.

The First Amendment was designed to protect the freedom of worship. At the time of its adoption, even the largest religious denominations found themselves in the minority somewhere in the country, so in a sense this First Amendment uniquely guarantees freedom to minorities.

Had this not been the case, support for the Amendment might not have been as strong as it was. But the very number of denominations caused each to recognize the possibility that a situation could arise in which it might suffer from the combined efforts of the others. The Amendment guaranteed that the prevailing religious convictions of the majority in any community could not be permitted to obstruct the free exercise of religion by minorities.

In this age of human governments the First Amendment is a wonderful gift to the people who are blessed to enjoy its protection. Like all such gifts, however, this freedom must be preserved. It must be kept healthy, strong, vigorous and alive. Left undefended, unguarded, this bulwark of liberty will surely erode. It will grow weak and unsteady. All Americans who are heirs to its benefits must never take this freedom for granted.

Americans can hardly imagine a society in which a person finds himself in violation of the law of the land because of the practice of the tenets of his or her religion. Such has been the common lot of religious dissenters throughout history. Even today, in various societies, those who hold religious convictions differing from the state-approved or official system of worship are forced underground, meeting and worshipping in secret, more often than not endangering their own and their family's lives. Witness religion behind the Iron Curtain for decades.

The Constitution becomes limited when individuals are forbidden to practice their religion in favor of the wishes, prejudices, norms, or even sensitivities of others.

In this world, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution stands as an ensign of tolerance for one of the most elemental needs of human experience — to worship God according to conscience. As an example to all nations, it serves testimony that no human being should be permitted to stand as judge between the individual and his worship of God.

Let all Americans (indeed all people who value the freedom to obey God) cherish this precious gift, this fundamental freedom enabling human beings to stand before God, as they understand his will for them, without hindrance or prevention. Let's pray that public policy never be permitted to prevent the free exercise of religion.

Selected by Brother L. A. Shumake

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

A Life of Service

J. H. Moore

During the Civil War in the United States most of the soldiers enlisted for three years, or during the war. It is not this way in the great Christian army. Men and women are required to enlist for life, and then it is demanded of them that they are "faithful unto death," for it is to such that the "crown of life" will be given. (Rev. 2:10).

A lifelong service means a lifelong faithfulness, lifelong obedience as well as a lifelong witness for the Master and his kingdom. It is not sufficient to be converted. It is not enough merely to put on Christ in the sacred rite of baptism, nor is it sufficient to observe the church ordinances from year to year. All of this is right and proper, but a life of service means more than being born into the family of God, and observing the church sacraments. God's children are supposed to be a working body, composed of those who are in the church for a purpose, and that purpose to make themselves useful. If practicable, they should leave the world at least a little better than they find it. And especially should they strive to leave the church in a better condition than it was when they entered the body.

As viewed from the religious standpoint, the Christian's life should be a busy one. He is to serve his Maker diligently all the days of his life. His influence and the influence of all he controls should be on the side of the religion he professes. Whether he engages in manual labor or in business enterprises, or devotes his time to professional duties, everything undertaken and done should be with a view of advancing the interests of the kingdom. And his manner of life ought to be such as to impress all those around him with the fact that he is serving his God with a whole heart, as well as with all his substance.

Men and women are not converted merely to be saved. This is a part of the purpose, of course, but as new-born creatures they are to make themselves useful in some manner. If they can do nothing more, they can let their light shine. Then they can see to it that their influence, whether it be much or little, is on the right side of questions. In the great Christian army of God, in contending for righteousness and holiness, they can march with the army, work with the army, and die while in full service and on duty.

YOUR BOYS AND GIRLS

Just walk with your boys and talk with your girls,
And live with them all the day long;
Make life a sweet thing, let time's fleeting wing
Brighten their days with a song.

Live with your boys and laugh with your girls;
Life's journey you cannot repeat.
Then give to each day as it passes away
A record both joyous and sweet!

Be chums with your boys and play with your girls,
In love that is tender and true;
Just give them your best, in labor and rest,
And the best will come back to you!

Work on with your boys and sew with your girls,
In lessons of kindly trust;
Oh, lead in the way while life's golden day
Is freed from both folly and rust.

Then pray with your boys and pray with your girls,
At the gloaming and dawn of each day.
Just bind them in love to the great heart above;
Then sin will not draw them away.

- Robert Hare

Selected by Sister Martha Shaffer

NEWS ITEMS

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to a Harvest Meeting on October 14 with Bro. Tom St. John bringing the Harvest Sermon. All are cordially invited to come and enjoy this day of worship with us.

Sister Diane Heisey, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Everyone who attended our recent Revival Meetings can attest to the blessings received through Bro. Jan Heisey's preaching of the Word. It was truly an inspiration. We greatly enjoyed having Sister Freda and the children with us also.

Clint Thompson, Chad and Seth Renicker were baptized on Sunday afternoon. Ruth Good came into our fellowship a short time later, on former baptism.

On the first Saturday of November, we look forward to our Fall Lovefeast. All are invited to share in this service.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Lord willing, the Quinter, Kansas Congregation plans our fall revival for October 28 through November 4, 1990. Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson, Myerstown, Pennsylvania will be the evangelist.

We'd love to have you come worship with us and remember us in prayer.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Our Revival is now history. Bro. Allen Eberly labored patiently, lovingly and fervently with us bringing helpful, Gospel sermons from August 18 to 26. Due to an unexpected hospital stay the writer had to miss half of the services. However, I was glad to be one of the nineteen who surrounded the Lord's tables on Saturday evening. Bro. Eberly officiated and we appreciated the presence of our Elder in charge, Bro. Virgil Leatherman and wife.

Although there were no additions to our group we trust all have been encouraged spiritually.

We need to pray and labor for the spiritual and numerical increase of the kingdom of Christ. The day of the Lord draweth near — just how near may be surprising. Even Christ questioned before He went away whether He would find faith on the earth at His return. He said as the days of Noe so would it be. The Bible records that Noah was a righteous man who found grace in the eyes of the Lord. There is not much encouragement as to numbers in these last days. But He also told us to "occupy till I come." We should search His word daily, do our best to keep His commandments that we be found wise virgins when the Bridegroom comes.

"He that knoweth to do well, and doeth it not, to him it is sin, and the wages of sin is death." I am inclined to believe that the largest single group of people in hell will be those who thought they would be saved, but the Lord's answer to them will be, "I know you not."

I wish to thank all who so fervently went to the throne of grace in my behalf during my last two hospital stays and also to the Brethren who administered the two anointing services. I pray the Lord's blessings upon you according to your needs.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CROSS IS NOT GREATER

The cross that He gave may be heavy,
But it ne'er outweighs His grace;
The storm that I fear'd may surround me,
But it ne'er excludes His face.

The thorns in my path are not sharper
Than composed His crown for me;
The cup that I drink not more bitter
Than He drank in Gethsemane.

The light of His love shineth brighter,
As it falls on paths of woe,
The toil of my work groweth lighter,
As I stoop to raise the low.

His will I have joy in fulfilling,
As I'm walking in His sight,
My all to the blood I am bringing,
It alone can keep me right.

- Ballington Booth

PEER PRESSURE

One of the strongest forces working on young people is the pressure exerted by their friends to be like everyone else. This pressure from peers affects not only the young people but adults as well. No one wants to be odd or different from those they socialize with. This pressure seeks to make all alike. The American culture is always working to make individuals and groups the same. The United States is famous as a cultural and ethnic melting pot. People of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds have been mixed together and out of that mixture has emerged the American culture.

The American Society does not want any to escape this merging. It does not like to have elements that are not conformed to the national culture. That culture may not be well defined but yet it easily recognizes those who deviate. Social pressure has been exerted on American Indians as well as immigrant and religious groups to conform to the national culture.

Distinctive attire or other emblems mark some as different from the prevailing culture. There may be an historical or cultural interest in these distinctive features, but at the same time, there is continuing social pressure applied to destroy these oddities in the melting pot.

That pressure may take many forms. It may be a social pressure that will not allow full participation unless these distinctive habits are given up. There may be financial pressure that would deny financial aid to those who do not conform. There may be patriotic pressure, demanding all yield their distinctive features for the well-being of the country. The pressure may be subtle or open. It may

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be willing to wait until a younger generation arises, who will want to adapt to the American culture rather than their parent's culture.

It is interesting that the values promoted by the surrounding society are often identical with the values promoted by Satan. Although there are habitual appeals to traditional, Christian values within the culture, especially by politicians, these values have little day to day influence upon the living patterns of the American society. There is a vocal commitment to these values without a serious, daily implementation of these values in day-by-day living. These values have very little influence as decisions are made either in personal lives or in national affairs.

With the many and varied pressures upon those, who are different, to conform, it becomes harder for them to resist. In a generation when all are dressed with mass produced clothing, all buy their food and other supplies from stores which are all the same except for the name on the front, it is small wonder that people feel pressured to be like everyone else. Advertising is developed to create a market as well as supply the market. Fads and fashions are developed as people yield to the pressure to purchase the advertised products. As more buy, others feel they must buy or they will be social outcasts. While young people are blamed for being unable to resist this pressure, most adults also yield to it. They fear the opinions and the ridicule offered by their neighbors, friends and relatives.

Unfortunately, many Christians are ensnared by society's pressure. They begin to conform to the program advocated by the general culture. They do not want to be different either. The opinion that their neighbors and associates have of them is more important to them than God, the Bible and the Church. Society's opinion is more powerful than is the Church's. Their lives soon reflect the surrounding culture more than they do the Christian values that they have vowed to perpetuate through their lives and influence. This affects the conservative Christians, who have sought the security of not being different. Today it is harder to identify Christians by their dress or activities. The change has been promoted by the impression that to gain the world, they must become like the world. They forget that as they become more like the world, they have less to offer the world. They also lose the respect they had when they were distinctive, though ridiculed.

Distinctiveness can take severe and damaging forms that need to be guarded against. When these traditional forms are designed for the aid and advancement of each member, each member can be strengthened to continue being true to the vows that he has taken.

How does peer pressure affect you? Are you willing to bear the pressure, while witnessing to the surrounding culture in the

strength of the Lord? Will you take a stand that will influence others to stand for the right, though the pressure gets tough?

OUR EARTHLY HOME

The home I am writing about is the home where we maintain our existence during our tenure here on earth. It is our palace, though it be an adobe hut or a leaking tent. It is where our lives are lived, molded, shapen and where our learning begins.

The home is the first institution God established; the Church is the second. Our home should be a Christian home. For all the years that I can remember, there hung in my father and mothers home, this motto, "In God We Trust."

We often sing the familiar song, "Love at Home" and how wonderful it is when there is love at home. And how unpleasant and unholy it is when there is no love, but bickering and squabbling.

Among the twenty-six cardinal rules for living in United States Army family housing in Germany, the briefest is "CURTAIL DOMESTIC SQUABBLES."

The Apostle Paul tells us in Titus 2:5 that mothers are to be keepers at home. Many homes are not being KEPT in the above sense and consequently, child delinquency, separation, divorce and infidelity are destroying the sacredness of the home. Children who are constantly left in the care of babysitters are a deprived group, who often become delinquents and fall into the hands of the law. Babysitters do not extend to their charges the love, adoration, comfort, warmth and affection that a true mother does. They lack that good, Christian home start and it often affects their entire life. You never saw a robin babysit for a sparrow nor a sparrow babysit for a robin. Where economical necessity warrants babysitters, then it may be justified. The home is an institution of God. Marriage is ordained of God and children are a gift from God. Edgar Allen Guest made this statement, "It takes a heap of living in a house to make it home." A certain writer made this statement, "To live in it you must be home." He made that statement regarding the fact that many families are not home, except possibly for meals and sleeping. Often, family members have different interests, causing each to go their separate ways.

Young folks, who have left the nest of their parents and are striking out on their own, should never forget the old HOME place. That is where they had the experiences that became precious memories, in later life. Many people of all ages, whether on a tour, or away at work or school or confined in a hospital or correctional

institution, have a great yearning to go home. WHY? "Mid pleasures and palaces, there's no place like home." Knowing that the tender heart pines to go home, we should love our Saviour more when we read that after Jesus taught in the temple and the service was over, John 7:53 and John 8:1 states, "And every man went unto his own house. Jesus went unto the mount of Olives." WHY? Matthew 8:20 tells us why. "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." The co-creator of the home HAD NONE OF HIS OWN.

When a structure begins to crumble, we generally look to its foundation for the cause of the weakness. One of the foundations upon which our society is built is the sanctity of the marriage and the spirituality of the HOME. Today we witness the erosion of this foundation. Divorce courts are filled. Parental discipline and authority are almost forgotten in the average home. There is a vital need for more love and respect.

As a direct result, true Christianity is at a low ebb. God, Christ, love, prayer, family devotions and true reverence are left out of many people's thinking. As a direct result, many homes have deteriorated spiritually. No Church or nation will rise higher spiritually or morally than the homes that make up church and nation.

A home should be CHRIST centered, where God is feared, loved and obeyed. When the art of honor, love, respect and obedience are taught in the home, children leaving such a home will have respect for others, for the church, for the laws of the land and for authority wherever encountered.

A father was a lover of horses. He had a son in the eighth grade. A policeman rapped on his door one dark, late night. The policeman asked him if he knew where his horses were. "Yes," he said, "In the barn. I locked them in before I went to bed." "Where is your son?" the policeman asked. The father said, "I do not know, but I presume he is in bed." The officer said, "He is not in bed. He is in jail." Father knew where his horses were but he did not know where his son was, not as interested in his own offspring as much as he was interested in horses.

I found a poem that fits well with my subject. It touches one's heart when you seriously ponder its contents.

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

I think oft-times as the night draws nigh
Of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide, and blossoms starred
Where the children played at will,

And when the night at last came down
Hushing the merry din,
Mother would look all around and ask
"Are all the children in?"

Tis many and many a year since then
And the old house on the hill,
No longer echos to childish feet
And the yard is still, so still.
But I see it all as the shadows creep
As though many years have been.
Since then I can hear my mother ask,
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder if, when the shadows fall
On this last short earthly day,
When we say goodbye to the world outside
All tired with our childish play.
When we meet the lover of boys and girls
Who died to save them from sin,
Will hear Him ask as mother did
"Are all the children in?"

- Author Unknown

A THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION,
"ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN."

Brother Paul R. Myers
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"You Are Celebrating Satan's Holiday"

It is not long until people all over the world will be celebrating Halloween. It concerns me that very few conservative Christians take a stand against this satanic holiday... the day witches celebrate in the occult.

There are eight major festivals that the occult celebrates each year. They include both solstices and equinoxes, in February (announcing spring), in April (welcoming summer), in August (heralding the fall harvest) and in October (awaiting winter). The major witchcraft festival is October 31... HALLOWEEN.

This is not child's play. It is an abomination in the eyes of God. Because witchcraft has gained a sort of acceptability today, no one seems too concerned. In fact, the Internal Revenue Service has even given a tax exempt status to the "Church of Wicca"... the official church of witchcraft.

The witch of Halloween is evil and should be considered dangerous. Her cloak really reminds us that this holiday is a "festival of the dead."

In the Middle Ages, witches would rub an ointment on themselves that confused the mind and another that speeded up the pulse. Still another ointment, containing bat blood and unguent, among other things, was used that numbed the feet giving them a feeling of flying. Thus they are pictured flying on a broom today.

The earliest celebrations of Halloween began among the Celts, who lived over two thousand years ago in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France. They celebrated the "Vigil of Samhain" in honor of their god, Samhain, lord of the dead. Halloween took on its evil significance with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats and demons. These pagans believed that evil spirits lurked about as the "sun god" grew pale and Samhain grew strong. They would light bonfires on the hillsides to scare away the evil spirits of those who had died the year before. They sacrificed people and animals and wore terrifying costumes. They also believed that when these spirits came to their houses, if not treated, they would trick them.

Halloween was a time of divinations and remains that even to this day. Dunking for apples was even a part of their desire to have "eternal youth" and to assure their receipt of the love of another.

The Jack-O-Lanterns came from England and were called Corpse Candles. They were thought to be signals from the souls of men lost at sea. They supposedly wanted their bodies buried and if a bone or two could be found, the ghost would be laid to rest and the Corpse Candle put out. Even others believed that these Jack-O-Lanterns were the souls of sinners condemned to walk the earth until the end of time.

The costumes of Halloween have to do with devils, witches, ghosts and goblins. These costumes were worn originally to scare off the real demons.

The Owl was considered a deity by the ancient Romans. The Europeans of the Middle Ages feared their eyes and call. They were considered servants of Satan and witches.

Black cats have had a place of deity for thousands of years. They were considered sacred in Egypt. They were dreaded as human beings changed into animals by evil powers. They are used by the Occult members today in their sacrifices and are considered mediums for satanic communication.

The bat, especially the blood drinking vampire, is a symbol of darkness to the occultist. And what is a Halloween party without bats?

Masks are considered by Occultists, to be protection against supernatural dangers and are worn in certain ritual situations. The wearer of the mask is usually a partaker of the power of the divinity or spirit which the mask symbolizes. Do Christians wear Halloween masks? Just our children, right, because we think it is cute and the thing to do because all of the rest of the world is doing it.

The ghost has always been considered a demon spirit which has been unleashed by Satan himself to live in our environment. It was representative of the worship of the dead and the occult.

Even "haunted houses" are dangerous for us to be a part of. Many communities have these places for you to visit during this season. In reality, they represent places where demons live. Satan is making reality seem like the ridiculous to dupe people.

II Corinthians 6:15-17 asks us, "What concord hath Christ with Belial? Halloween and the Christians are on opposite sides of the spectrum of life. We are God's. Even schools, today, promote Halloween vigorously, when in reality it is a satanic religion... which has supposedly been eliminated by education. It would appear that it depends on whether the religion is of God or of Satan. Don't celebrate it at school or anywhere else. "... Come out from among them, and be ye separate." It is not just fun and games. It is serious business.

I suggest that we ask the Lord's forgiveness for participation in this holiday in the past and make a fresh start in representing Him to this black and lost world. It is time for those on the Lord's side to stand up and be counted. We may have innocently participated in these things in the past because we had not been properly educated as to their dangers. With knowledge comes responsibility. Let us be responsible Christians.

Brother Len Wertz

HOW DO MOVIES AND TELEVISION DEPICT THE CHRISTIAN?

Psalms 101:3a, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:"

It is a fact that many Christians entertain thoughts of living like the world and having many of the world's possessions. As one who was raised in a worldly environment, the writer can perhaps understand the dangers a little easier and give warning to those dabbling in harmful things.

Television and motion pictures have always been temptations to Christians, and the Dunkard Church is correct in condemning the viewing of them. We know, whether we have observed them or not, that television and movies have many harmful aspects. They repre-

sent riches, lust, greed and pride as characteristics to be desired. They depict the world as a wonderful place and that we should seek after fun, adultery, bad habits, and the like. They take a soul off a Spiritual course and steer him toward oblivion. They waste our time. But there is another problem.

The visual media have historically been unkind to Christians. It was subtle at first, but over the years it has become more and more obvious and blatant. Ministers of the Gospel are never shown as being unselfish and spiritual. Instead, they are almost always shown as ignorant sex-maniacs prone to irrational acts of violence. Only real maniacs like Jim Jones are shown accurately. Christians are portrayed as stupid idiots who care nothing for others and cannot even feed themselves or their dozens of children.

Let us not forget that the forces which oppose Christianity have an agenda. They have a purpose, and that is to destroy us in any way possible in order to usher in their "new age." To them, we discriminate against other religious groups because we do not acknowledge their beliefs. We care nothing of the environment because of our large families. We are bothersome and annoying because we meddle into other people's spiritual lives. It is true that we do not believe in evolution and reincarnation as they do, and for that and all the other things they must destroy us. Since it is not yet legal to collect us and herd us into jails, they use the tactics of ridicule to show others how stupid our Christian beliefs are. In their eyes, no self-respecting occupant of this "mother earth" would embrace such antiquated and archaic ideas. We must live for today. Storing up treasures for a home in Heaven to them is ridiculous.

In concluding this matter we pose a question: Why should the Christian want to patronize (that is, spend their money, which is the Lord's) on movies and television programs that show Christians in a bad light? In addition, should we as Christians patronize those sponsors that advertise their products on television? Maybe we should find out which companies treat Christians badly in the media and point them to the Lamb of God, Our Lord Christ Jesus, who can save their never-dying souls.

Note: In writing this article I drew on my experience with television and motion pictures which took place before my conversion to the Lord Jesus. By no means do I encourage anyone to experiment with media, which can be dangerous to his spiritual life.

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IN THAT DAY

Isaiah 12.

The term "that day" found in Isaiah 12 refers to chapter 11. There are several different understandings and interpretations of this passage of Scripture. Some see it as merely a historical passage with no prophecy involved. While others see it as referring to a future millennial kingdom. Within this understanding are two groups. One interprets it as a "Church kingdom" while the other sees it as a "Jewish kingdom." Finally, there are those who see this passage as referring to the Church age of which we are a part of. There may be other understandings of this chapter but we believe these are the major ones.

While the vast majority of those who represent the conservative Brethren in our day preach and teach a "Jewish millennial," many of our early Brethren taught that this passage referred to the Church age and was symbolic in nature. No matter what your interpretation may be, and we believe there is room for difference of opinion, most all agree that we can make applications for today from chapter 12.

Verse 1, "And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me." In Romans 3:25 we read, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." The word "propitiation" refers to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ which turned away the anger of God. In many modern versions the word is omitted or changed to the word "expiation" because the translators deny a need to appease the anger of God. We should greatly praise God that Jesus Christ took upon Himself the anger of God that we deserve. Along with the denial of the anger of God, many also deny the reality of an eternal Hell. God's anger will only be turned away if we accept the shed blood of His Son on the cross of Calvary.

Verse 2, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Those who deny that Jesus Christ is God the Son should have great difficulty with verses such as this. In John 10:30 Jesus Christ told us, "I and my Father are one." The Jews of that day understood what He meant, for in verse 33 we read, "The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." During any time of danger or trial we do not need to fear for He has promised never to leave or forsake us. This was a great blessing to those of the New Testament Church and many of our Anabaptist forefathers who suffered persecution and martyrdom.

Verse 3, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Jesus Christ offers living water to those who are thirsty. Our salvation should bring us much joy. Yet most of us spend the majority of our time complaining. We complain about others having more of this world's goods instead of laying up our treasures in Heaven. We complain about our health while most of us are much better off than many. While we realize that it is not pleasant to suffer real pain and we should have compassion for those who are suffering serious illnesses, we can have the joy of our Lord in the midst of the worst of times. We visited Brother David Ebling just before he went home to be with his Lord. Though he was suffering greatly, his joy in the Lord and rich testimony of what the Lord meant to him, was a great blessing to us.

Verse 4, "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted." We are instructed to praise the Lord in this verse. We believe it is proper for us to say, "Praise the Lord" and other words of praise in our meetings. We are to call upon His name in prayer and petition. We are to declare His doings among the people. Finally, we are to make mention that His name is exalted. This sounds like a good outline for our meetings. We believe if we truly followed this guideline there would be no need for such things as showing films, having special music or having church suppers to gather a crowd. The reason many have to use such means is because their hearts have grown cold. Is this the reason our Dunkard meetings are often poorly attended?

Verse 5, "Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth." We can sing from the heart, for He truly hath done excellent things. Deep in the heart of every living man and woman is the desire to worship. Even the atheist and agnostic have this although they deny it. Yet many are singing praises to their Creator while teaching evolution.

Verse 6, "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." Jesus Christ is in our midst. We should cry out and shout this truth to the world in need of a savior. Our conversations should include what Jesus Christ means to us and what He had done for us. Let us as a Church and as individuals truly bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ. If we refuse to do so now we will answer to God in that day of judgement.

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1930

CARE FREE EXISTENCE

Glenn A. Cripe

"Thou maintainest my lot." (Psa. 16:5)

Care free existence has been the dream and ideal of many of us. The idea of never having to worry and wonder about tomorrow and the day after that, has a wonderful hold on most of us.

Possibly it is this idea which prompts us to get all of this world's goods we can. We think that after we have much goods laid up against the future we shall then have this care free life we desire so much. It may be we have a mistaken notion of this matter but from the way most act this would seem to be true. We scramble and hurry, treating one another in ungodly fashion in our rush to get something ahead for a rainy day. We worry and fret until we have no peace of mind. All this to the end that we may some day live a care free life.

It may be that we are simply producing more cares instead of less. The wealth once gotten is hard to keep. Others want it and will have it if possible to get it by hook or crook, honest or dishonest. In the end we have more worry and care than in the beginning.

When the psalmist gave us the words of the text he came very near telling us that a care free existence is to be had. If someone would only keep us we would have no troubles. The text implies that someone will. Think of being assured that every wish we wanted would be supplied or granted by some certain one who was in a position to do so, every need would be given by someone of means. That we think would truly be pleasant.

Such a condition is not beyond us if we will heed the instruction of God. It is ours if we will only accept. Others who have gone before have testified to this truth and the lives of some now living witness to it.

To some of us the greatest need of today and the only desire of many is some steady occupation where one can be employed in gaining a living. When we have plenty of work we wish we didn't have so much of it and then when we don't have any at all we want it very badly. Such is human nature. The clothing we need, the food for our dependent ones can only be supplied when we have work and when we have none we see this more clearly than ever before. We believe that work will be supplied if that is what we need, or in case the work is not to be had then the other needs that could be eliminated if we had work will be supplied.

Along with other things the friends whose company we enjoy and desire, those of like faith and our social needs those will all be supplied.

Spiritual blessings are to be ours as well. Many are troubled about their church relation. They wonder if they are in the proper church, if they are doing the part in the church they should, if they have missed their calling and so forth. Or trouble has come in their church, one member not agreeing with another or some similar situation. So they worry, fume and fret, they lose sleep and health and with all of this goes their good judgment and possibly also the blessing of a solution to the problem. The psalmist doesn't do all of this because there is one who maintains his lot.

There is one thing we all want and many have done considerable thinking about it also. It is deliverance from the adversary when it is ours to depart this life. We can be assured and comforted when we think on this subject if we remember the words of that text.

You will also note we have used the word, "supply" occasionally where the text says, "maintain". The word, "maintain" means much more than supply. To get the full meaning of it also means much to us. It means not only supply today but also tomorrow and the next day or next week and year.

It means when used as this text uses it that the maintaining is the work of someone other than we who receive the benefits. The one who will do all this for us is none other than our Creator. Certainly the Creator will take care of his creation if it will permit by still being as obedient now as when in the process of creation.

We must as the psalmist says, take refuge in him. When these cares and troubles begin to appear then confide and trust him for the blessing and it will be ours. The child runs to its parent when in trouble and so we should go to our creator. "Because he is at my right hand" the psalmist states.

Evil must not be ours or rather obedience must be given also to get the blessing. Verse 4 reads, "Their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take their names upon my lips", referring to the idolators and the ungodly. In other words the writer of this text will have nothing to do with that which is unrighteous. He is an obedient servant of God.

Because of this trust in God and the abhorance of all evil not only David but we also can say, "Thou maintainest my lot."

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Death Not the End

J. H. Moore

Job, the sage of Uz, one time asked: "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Though he lived before the day of written

revelation, he believed in God, and his soul cried out after him. He even looked beyond the grave, and endeavored to find an answer to his inquiry. The answer came a little later, for in chapter 19:26 (American Revised Version) we read: "And after my skin, even this body, is destroyed, then without my flesh shall I see God." He then knew, as a matter of certainty, that he would live after death, and that death is not the end. The conviction of Job, regarding man's future condition, was the conviction of all the holy men and women of Bible times.

Even some of the heathen philosophers, and others of religious conceptions, died believing in a hereafter. While their idea of the one God may have been tainted with error, still, deep down in their souls, was the feeling that death would not be the end of their existence. Their souls' yearnings indicated to them that there is a hereafter. In fact, the thought of a future state for man became a conviction. The conviction became a part of the thinking man, and in the absence of the revelation, with which the Hebrew race was favored, they reached a settled conviction that was as well defined in their minds, and was as much a part of them as is the instinct of the bird for a warmer clime. The God who made the bird made the instinct, and he also made the clime. Without the genial clime he never would have given the bird the instinct. And so it was with man even before the dawn of revelation. The God who made the man put into his soul the conviction of the hereafter, and it is just as natural for man to think of the life beyond as it is for the young bird, that has never been south, to feel that there is a far-away, genial clime.

But Paul, in the full light of revelation, did not need to depend wholly on the feeling that the Creator has planted in every man's soul. With him the future state of man was a matter of knowledge. Notice his careful statement found in II Cor. 5:1; "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." With him it was not a vague conception, as he said, "We know." And what is true of the apostle, in this particular, may be true with all the believers in Christ Jesus. The conviction of a future existence was well fixed in the minds of all the apostles, for Jesus one time said to them: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2-3) Taking it the world over, including every race of people, civilized and uncivilized, there is probably no one thing more thoroughly settled than the reality of the future state, with the Christian having the real and proper conception.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Another year; another notice and welcome from the Englewood Congregation; another opportunity to engage in our Lovefeast occasion. If the Lord wills, service begins at 10:00 A.M. Saturday with a 2:00 P.M. service and Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. on October 27.

We would appreciate your presence and prayers.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation will hold their revivals November 10 through 18 with Brother Robert Carpenter. Our Lovefeast will be on November 17, with services starting at 2:00 and 7:00. We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Stalter



A converted man, once an infidel, said to a friend: "One Sabbath morning while in South America I went into the woods in search of game. After a while I sat down on a log. My attention was drawn to a neighboring tree by the cries of a bird, which was fluttering over her nest, apparently in great distress. On looking 'round I saw a snake creeping along toward the tree, with his eye fixed on the bird and her nest. Presently I saw the male bird fly quickly away, as if anxious to get something. In a little while he returned with a twig, covered with leaves, in his mouth. Perching near the nest, he laid the twig carefully over his mate and her young, entirely covering them, and then, taking his place on one of the top-most branches of the tree, he awaited the arrival of the enemy. By this time the snake had reached the tree. Twisting himself around the trunk, he climbed up; then gliding along the branch till he came near the nest, he lifted his head as if he were going to dart upon the poor bird. He looked at the nest for a moment, and then, suddenly throwing back his head, made his way down the tree as fast as he could and went off. Climbing up the tree, and examining the leaves of the twig, which had been such a shield and defense to that helpless bird, I found that it had been broken off from a bush which is poisonous to the snake, and which it is never known to touch. In a moment the question arose in my mind: Who taught this bird its only weapon of defense in such an hour of danger? And quick as thought came the answer, None but God.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1990

November 4 - Imputing the Gospel - I Thessalonians 2:1-20.

1. With what manner or approach did Paul present the gospel to this church?
2. What problems did the Jews cause here?

November 11 - Establishing and Comforting - I Thessalonians 3:1-20.

1. What was Timothy's mission at Thessalonica?
2. Apply this lesson to our responsibility of discipleship in Matt. 28:19-20.

November 18 - THANKSGIVING - Nehemiah 12:27-47.

1. Is there a relationship between our thankfulness and our service to God?
2. How can we show our gratefulness?

November 25 - The Will of God - I Thessalonians 4:1-18.

1. How does God show us His will?
2. How much importance do you put on the will of God in your life?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1990

November 4 - Watch our Steps - Rom. 6:4, II Cor. 5:7, Gal. 5:16, Eph. 4:1, I John 1:6-10.

1. Define "Christian walk."
2. On which way are you walking? Matt. 7:13-14.

November 11 - Which Way Are We Looking? - Matt. 7:13-14, Heb. 12:1-6.

1. Who are you looking to for direction in life?
2. Do your affections reveal your present life focus? Col. 3:1-2.

November 18 - THANKSGIVING - Deut. 8:10, Ps. 100:4, Col. 1:12, Col. 3:15, I Thess. 5:18.

1. When should we give thanks? Eph. 5:20.
2. When DO we give thanks?

November 25 - Signs of the Times - Matt. 24:1-31.

1. List ten current events that are signs of the time.
2. How are we responding to these end times? II Pet. 3:11.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, Because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, More wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies Of all our golden dreams;
I love to tell the story, It did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard
The message of salvation From God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting, To hear it like the rest;
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.

- Catherine Hankey

PICTURES

In the parables, ordinances and various stories in the Bible, there will be found pictures or symbols of deeper truths that are being taught than the surface words would indicate. Jesus often used parables to illustrate lessons He wanted His audiences to understand. He knew if He put the lessons in theological terms like the rabbis, the people could not or would not understand what He was trying to teach them. So He used events and objects they were familiar with. From these familiar objects He drew parallels that taught His lesson. His effort was appreciated and the common people heard Him gladly. Jesus wanted more to know of God and His ways than just the few educated, theological masters of Israel. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, whoever or wherever they were.

Illustrations have remained an important part of proclaiming the Gospel. People today are no more interested in fine theological points than they were in Jesus' day. They want the gist of the matter not the speculative ideas of theologians. People still want great truths illustrated by examples and events from the world they understand. They may understand long words and complex sentences in their daily work but they want their theological teaching in terms that they can readily understand. Perhaps they do not want to work as hard at it as they should, but, nevertheless, the Truth must be presented in a way most will understand. Hopefully once it is understood, it will be translated into action. For the unbelieving, hopefully, there will be a decision to become a Christian and to invest that life in the service of the God of Heaven. For the Christian, hopefully there will be a decision to continue

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serving or to become even more fully involved. By making the message understandable more are likely to want to enter God's family, or to remain and to serve while there.

Jesus was not the only one in the Bible who used parables or stories to get across a point. Paul used many pictures to convey his messages to the recipients of his letters and to us. He spoke of soldiers, athletes, farmers and builders to illustrate various points in his writing.

The human body was one of the most frequently used subjects for illustration, because it was easily understood by each one, as he looked at his own body and realized the point being made. Each could understand how interdependent the various parts of the body were. So it was no great leap of faith to understand how interdependent the Body of Christ was. They could understand the relationship between their heads and their bodies, so they could understand that the Church had the same relationship to her Lord. They could understand how each member was important and needed by all the other members.

They knew about the marriage relationship. They had been taught about marriage and how important and sacred it was. So when the relationship between the Lord and the Church was spoken of as a marriage, they knew in their hearts how close that relationship was to be. They may not have been any more pure or upright in their sexual lives than people are today but they could identify with the teaching concerning purity and chasity in the relations between men and women.

The Bible contains many other illustrations, including the ordinances that have been delivered unto the Church for her continued edification. By practicing these ordinances, she continually reminds herself of many of Jesus' teachings. The ordinances are simple practices that are designed to teach great Spiritual truths. Even these simple events can impress the heart and mind with God's teaching.

The Old Testament contains many symbolic hints of what He and the Apostles would be teaching in the New Testament. There are hints there of what would come afterward, although often these hints were not understood by those who wrote them.

From the Bible's frequent use of illustrations we can understand that God has tried to present His Word in a way that would easily be understood by all who would be willing to listen, read and think. We are not much different from our forefathers. They understood illustrations and parables. So do we. Therefore we need to present God's Word so more can readily grasp and understand it. After all it is for their soul's salvation and well-being. May our teaching be as plain and understandable as that of Jesus, whom the common people heard gladly.

LABORING IN VAIN

In Psalms 127:1-2, we read, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep."

"In vain" means: "without effect, unsuccessfully, not good results, useless, time wasted."

Men can exert a great amount of energy on a project, but if they fail to use good material, or fail to go by proven directions, or have unconcerned employees, their effort will be in vain.

Holy Writ gives us many examples of Bible characters laboring in vain. We can waste our money foolishly, we can expend a large amount of energy on our part, we can lay awake nights, but if the Lord is not in our plans and efforts, all will be in vain.

We can plant a garden, in the best prepared soil, using the proper type of fertilizer, carefully cultivating as necessary, and even seeking beautiful plants and vines. But, if the vines do not bear fruit, our efforts are in vain.

In the parable of the talents we are taught that Christ and God want fruit from our lives, not empty vines. The children of Israel at times were displeasing to God. Why? Hosea 10:1, "Israel is an empty vine,..." bearing no fruit.

When man substitutes his plans instead of using God's plans, his efforts will be in vain. Mark 7:7, "Howbeit in VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

When we read what is being taught in America under the cloak of religion in the age in which we live, it makes one shudder. Divorce and remarriage, accepting members into the church who are living together unmarried, gambling and lotteries, dancing, style shows, bazaars, and so forth, oftentimes in the House of God. As I believe the scriptures, such conduct will only grow empty vines but all will be in vain, spiritually.

Where churches do not practice non-conformity, do not baptize, do not have communion, feet-washing, the prayer veil, Lord's Supper and so forth, their efforts are in vain. Their preachers and teachers are substituting their own doctrine, abandoning Christ's doctrine and their vines will be empty on Judgment Day.

I have been informed of a group who have a very showy Sanctuary and a large membership. They have a paved six acre parking lot. But foot tubs are prohibited. Could their worship be in vain?

Jesus gives us light on that thought in John 13:14, "If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet; YE OUGHT TO WASH

ONE ANOTHER'S FEET." The word "ought" means: "obligation, duty, responsible to carry out."

Jesus, in John 14:6 says, "... I AM THE WAY..." In Matthew 16:20 He stated He would build HIS CHURCH. He made strong the statement, "And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." His Church is permanent and so is His Word.

In Matthew 5:18 Jesus states, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven AND EARTH PASS, ONE JOT OR ONE TITTLE shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Worshipping other than the Trinity and using any other, but the true Word of God, will be in vain. There is one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism, so records Paul in Ephesians 4:5. Jesus should know for He is the DOOR to the sheep-fold.

If we truly want to worship God in sincerity, then why not worship Him according to His Word and produce Spiritual fruit acceptable to Him? If we try to save our soul an easier, man-made way, IT WILL ALL BE IN VAIN. Our vines will be empty.

Lot possessed the vale of Jordan in VAIN.

When we sacrifice Spiritual for the temporal all is in vain. Matthew 16:26 asks a very heart searching question, "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

The rich farmer built bigger barns, all in vain. Luke 12:15-21. We are warned repeatedly not to put our trust in earthly riches. Matthew 6:19-20, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"

I Timothy 6:17, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"

Those who build on a false foundation, build in vain. I Corinthians 3:11. The verses following informs us that if we use faulty material or substitutes in our Christian foundation, our labor is vain. Building on the Rock, Christ Jesus is safe and sure. Building on the sand will be in vain for all Eternity.

The Saduccees' faith was in vain. They believed not in the Resurrection. I Corinthians 12:16 teaches clearly if there was not a Resurrection all preaching would be in vain.

They labor and worship in vain who follow false teachers and not SOUND DOCTRINE. Matthew 15:9, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

We must know the truth so we can detect the false. II John 7-8, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not

that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh... Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, HATH NOT GOD. He that abideth in the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is VAIN."

The Apostle Paul sums up this subject in Philippians 2:14-16, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have NOT RUN IN VAIN, neither laboured in vain."

I am no longer able to function behind the pulpit, and my only object in writing articles is to keep me studying the Holy Bible and HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE.

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MAKING RIGHT DECISIONS

Jeremiah 8:1-3, "At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves: And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the hosts of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth. And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith the LORD of hosts."

Romans 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Recently a decision of the President of the United States caused our government to be shut down for a short period of time. While

this decision did not affect us in any way, most decisions that are made affect more than the one that makes the decision.

In the passage from the book of Jeremiah, we have several groups of people who chose death rather than life. "Dead men's bones" in Holy Scripture many times refers to spiritual as well as physical death. We see several different groups of our day depicted in this passage out of Jeremiah.

"The bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes" appears to us to be a picture of civil government. While we do not believe it is proper for a Christian to be involved in politics and we do not believe it is the place of the Church to tell the government what to do, we believe that God is less than pleased by many governmental decisions in recent years. Abortion on demand is a choice of death over life and we believe is a stink in the nostrils of God! While we do not believe that America is a Christian nation or ever was one, we believe it is very evident that the decisions made by governmental officials were more nearly moral in days gone by. There was a time when a divorced and remarried man could not have successfully run for President. Now those in the modern church who get involved in politics will even endorse such an individual. Are we coming to a time when the United States government will be like the government of Israel spoken of in Isaiah 3:12? "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths."

We see "the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets" as a picture of the church. While we can expect a government run by those who are not ruled by the Word of God (although the majority of those serving in office in this country belong to some type of religious organization) to make decisions contrary to the will of God, it is harder for us to accept this concerning the churches of our land. Yet many of our church leaders (I am speaking of the church in generic terms) are as far away, if not farther, from the Word of God than our political leaders! If the words taken from Isaiah are true of government they are even more true of the modern church. "Children are their oppressors and women rule over them." They worship the "sun and the moon, and all the hosts of heaven" by teaching theistic evolution in place of divine Creation. While our churches are to be places of life and health, serving and being served, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit, because of poor decisions they have become "for dung upon the face of the earth."

We see "the inhabitants of Jerusalem" as a picture of individuals within the earthly church. Many have taken the "dead bones" of church ritual and replaced the living Gospel of Jesus Christ with

them. On the other hand, "the sun, and the moon, and all the hosts of heaven," can be seen as a type of the world. Many within the earthly church have loved the world. I John 2:15 warns us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." When they love the world they serve the world. I John 2:16 tells us what to avoid. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." How many church members "bow down" to the television set which shows all of this? They have walked after the world. The world, not God's word, dictates the way they dress and what they put upon their body. They have sought the world. Their decisions are based upon the wisdom of the world and not that of God. They have worshipped the world and accepted many of its pagan practices in place of the pure worship of God.

Each of us must make the decision to follow and worship God in our own sinful way. We must repent and be baptized to be washed with the blood of Jesus Christ, according to Holy Scripture. Then we must forsake the world and all its ways and follow the Lord Jesus Christ and the written word, the Holy Bible. May we each pray that God would help us to make right decisions in life and have the strength to prove true until the end.

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"... wait upon the Lord..."

One of the most wonderful verses of promise in the Word is found in Isaiah 40:31. "BUT THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES; THEY SHALL RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY; AND THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT FAINT." I believe that every meaningful experience of the Christian life is covered here. When you take time to wait upon the Lord you will truly understand the dynamics of the Christian experience. These are the promises:

We are first of all promised ENERGY. If we wait on the Lord there will be a great release of energy, both in a physical as well as a spiritual way. We will RENEW OUR STRENGTH. It denotes more than just being refreshed. It really indicates a new person and that is what we become in Christ Jesus as we wait upon Him. We become energized for service. We emit physical energy which

sometimes is superhuman to take care of the responsibilities that God gives us.

We are secondly promised VICTORY. There is no greater illustration of victory than the picture of an eagle as it mounts up in its position of dominance over the earth... as it soars high in the heavens. With the height of his soaring he is able to gain a clear vision of all that is below him. As a result of this position, he is able to conquer and to gain great victories. This victory equates to strength and certainly as we wait upon the Lord, our strength is increased.

There is the promise of VITALITY. If we wait upon God, He will give us special infusions of stamina to do the tasks He asks us to do. We will be able to run and not be weary. Does this mean that we will abuse our bodies and minds by continually running ourselves to death for our jobs or even for the work of the church? I believe that God gives us clear teachings in our scriptures that we are to use moderation in all things and this includes our daily work schedule and church work load. For most people this does not seem to be a problem. For others, God has to work with them to give them victory in moderating their schedules. Nevertheless, when we need to run, He will anoint us with vitality to continue until the task is accomplished. Accept the promise of His vitality as you accept the command to wait upon Him.

Finally, there is the promise of STABILITY. This might well be the foundational teaching of these promises. Jesus asks us to "walk and not to faint" and this again shows that he cares about our stable walk for Him. He would desire that our job, our relationships with others, our marriage, and our prayer life all be stable, sound, and productive. Stability is so very important to our happiness and peace of mind. Won't we wait upon Him and gain this quality?

Wait upon the Lord and you will not lack in energy, in victories, in vitality or in stability. These are the keys to success that comes from waiting on the Lord. Ultimately, by waiting upon the Lord, you will be able to see more fully the incredible work He can do in you. Anticipate His caring for you. Experience His miracles.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1930

OBEDIENCE

A. G. Fahnestock

We are time and again throughout the Old and New Testament, commanded to obey the voice of the Lord, the words of his

prophets, obey the commandments and observe the ordinances. There are several ways by which people claim to obey, — some obey in part by choice, others obey as far as the church demands, still others because of eternal punishment. But the only obedience that meets the divine approval of God, is obeying out of faith and love; which makes obedience a habitual yielding to the truth as revealed by God, his Son and the Holy Spirit. Love will not permit obedience to simply follow the letter, but will have it governed by the spirit of the letter. II Cor. 3:6, "The letter killeth but the spirit giveth life."

Let us consider its importance aside from that already mentioned.

1st — Obedience is better than sacrifice. Saul of old had learned this, when he and his company chose to sacrifice rather than to strictly obey; and he suffered the consequences. (I Sam. 15-22.)

2nd — Obedience is the revelation of heavenly wisdom. Paul with all his education, experience and worldly wisdom which is only attained in a full measure through obedience. There is a world of difference between the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of heaven.

3rd — Obedience is the result of true belief. And as many as believed on him to them gave he power to become the sons of God. (John 1:12) Through genuine faith we get to obey and therefore have power to become the sons and daughters of God.

4th — Obedience to God's eternal truth, gives us the power the world knoweth not of. All through the ages the world was astonished at the results of those who used the God given power.

5th — Loving obedience is the foundation of victory. It is the whole armor of God.

6th — Obedience is the unchangeable law of unity. Show me a people who obey the spirit of the Gospel and there you will find unity and we can only conclude that where there are divisions, contentions, and so forth there is a lack of obedience to the Gospel.

7th — Obedience is the gateway to true happiness, heavenly peace. (Deut. 4:28) We read, "Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee and thy children."

8th — Obedience is the only thing that will give the enlightened conscience rest. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.", says Jesus. Do you say that there are many living in this, our day and age who do not strictly obey the spirit of the Gospel and their conscience does not smite them? We accept that; but by it we also know that that conscience is not the enlightened, the unseared or undefiled.

9th — Obedience is an evidence of love. John 14:15, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments."

10th — Obedience is an evidence of confidence. Think of a Christian professor who has been offended and has not obeyed Matthew 18 where it says, "If thy brother trespass against thee go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone...", he proves to God that he has no confidence in him regarding this matter. Confidence will bring us to obey although our personal views are different. We are told of a certain Colonel who on one occasion, after looking through his field glasses, commanded a gunman to point his cannon at a small house across the valley saying that the building was filled with enemies. The gunman pointed his gun and at command he fired. The commander congratulated the man back of the gun, saying "that was a good hit, it has demolished the entire building"; and just then he saw the tears roll down the cheeks of the gunman and he asked what it means, the gunman replied, "That building which I demolished at your command was my home and the only house I had." So then when the word of God commands let us have that confidence that will make us obey, and if it does destroy our way of thinking and doing.

11th — Obedience is the price we must pay to obtain full power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples to go to Jerusalem and there wait until they were endued with power. The disciples harkening to Jesus, have astonished the world at the wonderful power of the Holy Spirit manifested on the day of pentecost.

12th — Obedience is the soothing and unquestionable remedy for all ailments, external or internal troubles, chronic or acute.

13th — Obedience avoids deception. James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own soul."

14th — Obedience is a proof of conversion. Who will believe that a man or woman has been converted to God who does not keep his commandments?

15th — Obedience proves whose servants we are. Rom. 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourself servants to obey his servants ye are to whom ye obey", and again Jesus said, "If ye were of your father Abram ye would do (obey) the works of Abram but ye are of your father the devil and his works ye will do."

16th — Loving obedience justifieth. The Gospel teaches it, God demonstrated this in obeying his Father. Through faithful obedience the apostles had the assurance which made them willing to suffer trials, persecutions, and even give their own life. Is this our attitude?

17th — Obedience bars out disputings, envying, jealousy, evil

speaking, worldly honor, back biting, questionable things, and so forth.

DO WE HAVE THIS LOVING OBEDIENCE GOVERN OUR LIVES?

TEACHING THE GOSPEL

Acts 8:30, "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understand thou what thou readest?"

The Christian writer has an obligation to those who read his work. Above all, he must write in order to be understood. He must endeavor to make everything he writes crystal clear. Christ commands us to go and teach all nations. We know of many different kinds of teachers. All have one thing in common. They must present their topic in order to be understood by their students. A teacher must teach so his students learn. If the students have not learned, then the teacher has failed.

Jesus taught His disciples many things. A lot of what He taught them they didn't understand, but would understand later when they had greater maturity. Many times parents have to teach their children in this way. Not everyone arrives at the same level of maturity at the same time. This makes teaching difficult. After seventeen years in the Christian life this writer is only now beginning to understand some aspects of Christ's teaching. To give an example: most young Christians do not fully understand baptism at the time, but later on in life they see why it was necessary and what it represented. This is where faith comes in. God told Moses to go, and though Moses did not fully understand why, he went, having the faith to believe God's plan would be fulfilled. We are commanded to be baptized and as a young Christian we do not fully understand, but we must trust God that his purpose will be fulfilled.

The disciples did not understand why Christ had to die, even though He had told them. But by faith they continued on until the Holy Ghost, the greatest teacher of all, could teach them and make them understand. In our text, Philip asked the eunuch if he understood what he was reading. The eunuch answered, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" What we need today are more guides like Philip. Unfortunately most people are too content and let the preachers do it all.

Our young people are looking for people to guide them. Too often it is their peers that they look to, and the influence is sometimes very bad. Likewise, young married couples are looking for someone to guide them. Too often young marrieds are

encouraged to "Keep up with the Joneses" in matters of material wealth, and they often neglect the spiritual things.

In Titus 2:4-5 it speaks of aged women: "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." See who important good teaching is? If just a few of the older women ignore this scripture, just think of the consequences.

We cannot expect to have our children be saved if they only get two hours of Christian teaching per week on a Sunday morning. If parents are too busy to sit down with their children and teach them from the scriptures, then they shouldn't be surprised if they become wayward. These are souls that have been put into our care. We are commanded to teach ALL people: our children, our church, and the world around about us.

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THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The State of the Dead

J. H. Moore

The condition of man between death and the resurrection has always been a matter of interest. We see our loved ones close their eyes in death. We realize that the spirit has left the body, has entered into another state of existence, but what is its condition? Is the spirit, or soul, — and we shall make no distinction between soul and spirit in this chapter, — in a conscious or in an unconscious state? When the spirit of a dear friend leaves the body, is that spirit conscious of passing events? Can the spirit, in this state, think and observe what is going on? Let us see what the Scriptures have to say on the subject.

In the Sacred Record death is frequently called a sleep. It is said that Stephen fell asleep. While Lazarus was dead, Jesus said he was asleep. After the death of the body, the inspired writers did not consider the spirit dead. They regarded the condition of the dead as a sleep, — a very pleasant thought. Solomon makes a clear distinction between the body and the spirit at death, for he says: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Eccles. 12:7). The spirit of man, while in the care and presence of God, would certainly be alive. When John, the Revelator, was permitted to look into heaven, he

"saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain." (Rev. 6:9). These souls were alive, and conscious, for in the very next verse it is said that they could talk. This, of itself, ought to settle the question.

We, however, call attention to the story of Lazarus and Dives, as told in Luke 16:19-31. Here we are told that Lazarus and the rich man died, the former being taken to Abraham's bosom, while the latter lifted up his eyes in Hades. Not only so, but we find both of them conscious, and capable of thinking and acting. No clearer evidence of a conscious state, after death, could be placed in human language.

To this we add the observation made on the Mount of Transfiguration. In this instance, and in the presence of Peter, James and John, Moses and Elijah, in their glorified state, appeared and conversed with Christ. Moses had been dead more than 1,400 years, while Elijah was translated over 900 years before. The mere fact that these men, after an absence of hundreds of years, could return to the scenes of earth, and converse so as to be heard and understood, should be regarded as evidence of the most satisfactory type, in support of the conscious state of men and women between death and the resurrection.

OBITUARY

L. A. SHUMAKE

Bro. Lawrence A. Shumake born at Staunton, Virginia on June 2, 1891, the son of Charles L. and Priscilla (Garber) Shumake.

When he was eleven years old he moved with his parents to Trevilians, Louisa County, Virginia where he resided until death. He was a member of the Church of the Brethren early in life, but transferred his membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church at Dayton, Virginia. He was installed as a minister and later ordained an Elder. He made many trips across the mountains to be with Brothers and Sisters of his faith. He was deeply concerned about those who needed the gospel. He wrote a number of leaflets plus articles for the Monitor. He was an inspiration to those who knew him, old and young.

On February 25, 1914 he married Bessie Kiblinger, who preceded him.

On August 13, 1990 the Lord called him home at an age of 99 years, 2 months and 11 days.

He leaves the following children: Audry Peetz of Orange, Virginia, Alvin Shumake of Richmond, Virginia, Esther Gentry, Manuel Shumake of Trevilians, Virginia, Charles Shumake of Bumpass,

Virginia and Mary Vogt of Trevilians, Virginia. Also twenty-four grandchildren, twenty-nine great grandchildren and eight great, great grandchildren.

Services were held August 15, by Minister David Searcy, from the funeral home in Louisa and his body was laid to rest in the cemetery near by.

Beyond the Sunset

Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,
When with our Saviour heav'n is begun.
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious dawning,
Beyond the sunset, when day is done.
Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones who've gone before.
In that fair homeland we'll know no parting,
Beyond the sunset forever more.



NEWS ITEMS

NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to express my thanks for all your prayers, flowers, visits and for so many cards, with such encouraging notes and letters added.

Cards have some wonderful messages in them, but until you are on the receiving end you'll never know how much a few lines in the sender's handwriting means.

Most of all I'm thankful to my Heavenly Father for watching over the doctors during the five hours of surgery and for His comforting Spirit that followed.

Let us remember our Heavenly Father is the greatest of all physicians. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12.

So if we have any sin-eating cancer in our hearts, let us be sure to make an appointment with the Great Physician for surgery.

In Christian love,
Brother H. Edward Johnson

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NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WITH THANKFUL HEARTS, O LORD

With thankful hearts, O Lord, we come,
To praise thy name in grateful song;
Accept the off'ring, Lord, we bring,
And help us loud thy praises sing.

We thank thee, Lord, for daily food,
For plenteous store of earthly good;
For life, and health, we still possess,
With house and home so richly blest.

We thank thee for this goodly land,
Where freedom reigns on ev'ry hand;
Do thou, O Lord, our country bless,
With heav'nly peace and righteousness.

We thank thee for the blessed Word,
That to our souls doth life afford;
Help us its message to receive,
And from the heart its truth believe.

May all the nations learn to know
The God of heav'n and earth below;
And walk in light, and truth, and love,
And praise the Lord who reigns above.

- J. S. Mohler

WHERE ARE THE NINE?

One of the most dreaded of all diseases, anciently and even today, is leprosy. It is a very destructive disease, because it continuously eats away at the skin and nerve endings of the victim. It is a disease that will eventually prove fatal, for sooner or later vital organs will be destroyed. It usually takes an extended period to do its work but it will surely do it. In ancient times there was no cure for the disease so its victims were required to live separately from other people, so others would not be infected.

Knowing this little bit about the disease it is little wonder that it is often compared to sin. Sin in many ways resembles leprosy. It begins as a small spot, but if unchecked will soon grow and will in time prove to be fatal. Sin eats away the outer protection and eventually destroys the feelings and emotions just like leprosy destroying the nerve endings of its patients. Sin is deadly. What begins as an innocent, good time, ends up as death to the soul. Sin appears so harmless at first that it is allowed to get a foothold, then when it is recognized for its true self, it is so hard to get rid of it. It often affects other people, so many hearts and lives may be hurt by its eradication.

Jesus was often hailed by those who wished to be healed. One time He was hailed by ten lepers, who were standing at a distance from the road. They could not be on the road when others were traveling, lest they infect someone else with their disease. They called to Jesus asking that He be merciful to them. This effort to keep the lepers separated from others is one point where leprosy differs from sin. Sin, although as infectious as leprosy, is not kept away from those it might affect. Unless the person deliberately

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keeps himself away from sin, which is on every side, he will be exposed to it. It is presented in all forms, through sight, hearing and association. It is too bad that sin could not be made as unappealing as leprosy is, so its victims would be as wary as they would be around leprosy.

Jesus heard the appeal of these lepers. He did not instantly heal them as He could have. Perhaps that is what they desired. Instead He sent them to show themselves to the priest. This had been the command of the Old Law that the healed leper was to be certified clean by the priest. It was when they began their journey to show themselves to the priest that they were healed. God has provided the cure for sin through His gift of Jesus, as the sin cure of mankind. For men to avail themselves of the cure they must make their commitment known to God. They must call upon Him and be willing to obey His requirements.

All ten of the lepers were healed as they went their way. It must have been a wonderful thing to have their skin and nerve endings restored, so they were as good as new. It must have been a real joy when they realized that they could resume their social lives. They could return to their families and be with their friends. Forgiveness of spiritual leprosy is a wonderful thing too, for it restores more than a social life, it restores a relationship with God.

Although ten were healed, only one returned to give thanks to Jesus. The others were so related that they wanted to resume their normal lives. Surely they were glad for the healing, but they had so many other things that now were important to them. One did come back to thank and to worship Jesus. Jesus commended him for his return, promising him not only the physical healing that he had already given him but also Spiritual healing, since he had given evidence of his faith.

The failure of the nine to return and offer thanks is very indicative of one of the failings of mankind, unthankfulness. Although we receive so many blessings and gifts from God and our fellow men, so often we are not thankful. We have received all from God, including life, health and strength. We also receive all manner of help and presents from other people. Do we remember to be thankful for these kindnesses or do we complain because all is not exactly as we might want it? We should especially be thankful for the Spiritual gifts that God has given us, otherwise sin would destroy us and condemn us to an eternal separation from God.

This Thanksgiving season offers us a great opportunity to express our thanks. We can thank family and friends for their many gifts and sacrifices in our behalf. We must thank God for all He has done for us, providing Spiritual and temporal blessings throughout our lives.

Are you one of the nine, who didn't come back? Or are you like the one who did?

THANKSGIVING IN THREE TENSES

My subject is based on Psalms 66.

Honoring the Lord with a special day of Thanksgiving is one way of answering the question, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?", as recorded in Psalms 116:12.

The Pilgrims observed Thanksgiving in America for the first time in 1621. Their Governor said, "That it was the praise-worthy custom of Holland", to declare a special day for the giving of thanks.

The citizens of Holland, in the old city of Leyden, observed an annual Thanksgiving celebration dating back to their deliverance from the besieging Spanish army in October, 1574.

True Thanksgiving is rooted in a sense of gratitude for the unmerited favors of God. We are promised a seed time and a time of harvest. We are commanded in Proverbs 3:9-10 to "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

We might, at first glance, with nations teetering on the brink of war, an uncertain economy and many other unknowns, think that we have little to be thankful for. Men have thanked God before in uncertain and critical times in the past. Psalms 66, represents our attitude towards God's goodness, past, present and future.

Verses 5 and 6 recount mighty acts of God's faithfulness. "Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men. He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him."

God knows each of our needs, past, present and future. All past blessings have been consumed, except those comparing to what the Psalmist David referred to, when he stated, "My cup runneth over." If we carefully consider our lot, we will have to conclude that we have been blessed in the past beyond our deserving, which makes it mandatory that we thank God for every blessing granted to us in the past.

All of God's promises can be fully depended upon. II Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises..." In the present tense and for our benefit during our lifetimes we have so many promises from God that it would be utterly impossible to enumerate them all in this article. I will name a few putting them in my words, but based on Scripture. I will

never leave nor forsake you. We are promised seed time and harvest and we see its fulfillment today. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Ask and ye shall receive. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.", besides countless others.

Concerning future promises, we, too, can revel in the goodness of God, as the writer of Hebrews states in Chapter 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Christ and God serve each generation alike. Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." Israel was thankful for its heritage. They thanked God for the patriarchs who took God at His Word.

The future holds many promises to usward. We can live a life of thankfulness in anticipation of blessings promised.

We have a great God and a great Christ. We can revel in their faithfulness. We know that they are a very pleasant help in time of need as at the present time. And we have just as sure promises for the future.

Referring to the future we know not how or what we should pray for. Romans 8:26. For that reason, Christ taught us, that when we pray that we pray "Thy will be done."

Let us make our petitions in sincerity, committing our way unto the Lord and He will provide that which is best for us.

And for that hope in the future, **LET US GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD.**

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THE LORD IS EXALTED

Isaiah 33:5-6, "The Lord is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgement and righteousness. And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure."

Philippians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The Lord IS exalted! This does not depend on the actions of moral man. He is exalted "for he dwelleth on high." No matter how hard man tries to bring God down to his level or tries to rise to the

level of God the eternal truth, power and glory of God shall remain. Without denying the scriptural free will of man, we must acknowledge the supreme sovereignty of God.

The Lord is exalted for "he hath filled Zion with judgement and righteousness." We cannot ignore the commandments of God and still receive his blessing. God is a God of judgement as well as a God of love. As our verse in Philippians tells us, God has highly exalted the Lord Jesus Christ. Only God can be exalted. Jesus Christ is God the Son. God the Father has given the righteousness of Jesus Christ to all of His born again children. It is this righteousness, not our own, which is our "ticket to Heaven."

Because God is exalted "wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times." God has given us the wisdom we need to make decisions in our life. This wisdom comes from the knowledge of His Holy Word. If man would believe the Holy Word as God gave the perfect revelation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, our churches would not be following the errors and trends of the world as is all too often the case today. Our churches are not stable. In all too many instances we are tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. As we stated, God is exalted if we exalt Him or not. Yet, it is also true that we can bring reproach to the name of Christ. We are God's representatives on earth. The Bible calls us the body of Christ.

Because God is exalted we have the "strength of salvation." God has put within us the power to resist the Devil. Satan is powerful but God is all powerful. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we have God living within us. Yet all too often we do not make use of this power. Why is the earthly church full of divorce (and even remarriage)? All too often it is because we have not looked to God for our strength in a time of trial. The strength of salvation should result in strong Christian homes in contrast to the trend of our time. If a marriage does fail do not put the blame on God. Many times if we would have followed God and His Word in choosing a lifetime mate we would have avoided future problems. Yet if we use the strength of salvation God has given we can have joy in serving Him despite the circumstances. This is not to say that living without a wife will not bring temptations and times of loneliness. But if God is truly exalted in our life we will be willing to bear a hardship for Him and He will help us in a time of temptation.

When God is exalted "the fear of the LORD is his treasure." We are to fear God with a holy fear which includes acknowledging who He is. Jesus Christ instructs us, in Matthew 10:28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." With the growing acceptance of unconditional eternal security many

have lost their fear of God. One preacher boldly made the statement that he could not lose his salvation if he wanted to. We fear what man might say about us rather than fear what God expects of us.

We are to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we say and do. Jesus Christ is not exalted in our lives when we love the world more than we love Him. While we believe that we should respect those who have leadership over us in government and pray for them and never show disrespect for the flag or other symbols of our government, we cannot exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and exalt human government at the same time. "For God and country" is not to be found on the pages of the New Testament. When Jesus Christ is exalted in our lives we will have love for all people. Having love for a criminal does not mean we overlook his debt to society but it does mean we should desire the salvation of his soul. We will love everyone no matter what color their skin may be or the language they speak. If Jesus Christ is truly exalted in our churches we will have love and peace.

God IS exalted. But do we exalt Him in our lives? To exalt Him you must accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior and Lord. His blood will wash away all your sins and make you righteous in the sight of God. As we read in Colossians 2:12, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Let God be exalted!

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Love???

Love is probably one of the most misunderstood emotions of our day. There have been massive changes in attitude toward it in the past thirty years that have led to the sexual permissiveness of our age. We have gotten used to love as a private behavior that is sexual. Traditional Christian attitudes toward marriage and single morality, as well as extramarital relationships and homosexuality, have fallen prey to the immorality of the age.

Bible values are openly questioned today and have been discarded by most people. Why this great swing in such a short time? The answer is weakening religious commitments. People's faith has been shattered by humanism. They have been disabled morally. Of course, there is also the influence of Freud, who

argued that sexual repression was the root of all kinds of personality malformation. With this is the exploitation of sex in advertising and entertainment. You cannot drive down the road without being barraged by illicit posters. Magazines and paperback books are full of pornographic pictures and phrases to appeal to the carnal nature. Love has become cheap!

In addition, we have become conditioned as we have been subjected to this material. Morality has eroded and the fallen nature has been stimulated.

When a nation declines, history teaches us that there is a breakdown in sexual morality. This is illustrated in the Greek culture where satisfying the physical urges was no different than taking a drink when they were thirsty. Gutter morality undermines the basic building blocks of a society and destroys family life. It also leads to venereal diseases and AIDs in epidemic proportions as well as legalized abortions. For the lack of really understanding love... society is falling apart at the seams.

As Christians, we should be concerned about this problem from a Scriptural point of view. The decline in morality has gone hand in hand with the decline in a vital spirituality. It all began with people refusing to accept the truth that God gave them in His Word. In turning away from Him, they preferred to live a lie. This was followed by serving the creature rather than the Creator. As a result, God will deal with this problem in judgment.

Does this mean that God does not deal with sin here and now? Of course it doesn't. The moral chaos and perversion of our time has led to an unbelief that has devalued man in his own eyes. Dignity and values are gone and man has been reduced to a machine or an animal. Another person becomes just something to be used and discarded. All this is seen by man as his "freedom."

Christians are feeling this pressure. We are open to the same conditioning as others and we try to adopt worldly attitudes. But we must come to terms about love and what it really is according to God's standard. Bible standards are not archaic and irrelevant. God gave them to us for our happiness and safety. This is important to understand in the formative years.

Now let me say this. I am not only talking to singles. Married people are feeling the pressure. It is tragic when marriages break down as a result of the gutter morality of our time. It has already caused far-reaching damage to some marriages and some churches. Could it be that the door of the Church has not been tightly closed against this sin or possibly the ministry has not adamantly taught Biblical values in love and marriage and courtship? Could it be that we have not taught Bible teachings as those from the Song of Songs because we have been embarrassed about

these scriptures and feel they might be in the Bible by mistake. There are powerful lessons to be taught and learned in many scriptures on the topic of love and sexuality. The Bible teaches openly that sexual relations outside the marriage bond is a grave sin. Extra-marital relations are a perversion and are unnatural by God's standards and can lead to eternal death.

We need the power of Jesus Christ transforming our practice of love. We need the indwelling of the Spirit and God's grace to protect us. We need repentance for breaking these laws in the past and need to make new starts. God will give us the power to overcome unnatural lusts.

We have accepted a new life in Him and we need also to accept a new attitude about our bodies and those of other people. Love has been misused and perverted.

Learn what real love is and learn of real happiness and beauty. Get right with God and let Him revitalize your life, your dating, your marriage. Keep your body and its appetites in their proper place. Make a covenant with your eyes not to be lustful. You are not your own any more. You are the Lord's... so, yield yourself to Him. Discover that God will lift you above the fog of worldly love and immorality into purity and wholesome love. Reverse the trend... let God have the victory.

Brother Len Wertz

LASCIVIOUSNESS

Galatians 5:19, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,..."

How many times have we read this verse without really finding out what lasciviousness means? We can see by the context that it probably has something to do with sex, but any more we cannot say. If we are to use and defend the King James Version of the Bible we should know what the words mean. Otherwise we would be subject to ridicule, being accused of traditionalism without substance.

"Lasciviousness" comes from a Greek word meaning, "lustfulness, unchastity and lewdness". Lasciviousness is the promoting or partaking of that which tends to bring forth lewd emotions: anything which has a tendency to produce lust and sex. Many of the "pleasures" of this world, including various types of music, dancing, theater, television, movies, and the like, will produce lasciviousness. This is why the Christian should avoid these things. In James 1 it is written that a man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. When lust has conceived it brings forth sin. When sin is finished it brings forth death. That is why we must avoid lasciviousness at all costs. Is it all right to look upon nakedness in a book or magazine? Not for a Christian.

Anything that plays upon the mind such sinful things must be avoided.

When someone asks you why you do not have a television in your home, or why you do not attend movies, what is your reply? Too often the answer is, "The church forbids it." But we should tell them of the hope which lies within us, and how worldly amusements only interfere with our spiritual life and serve to destroy it. We cannot afford to allow these things to gain a foothold in our lives. Lasciviousness is a thing of evil, and we cannot toy with it.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1930

ALL POWER; ALL NATIONS: ALL THINGS

B. E. Breshears

In Matthew 28:18-20 our Lord gave to His church the great commission. This commission should concern every one of His followers from that time down through the succeeding centuries "even unto the end of the world." We wish to notice the above expressions as here used.

All Power

And He came and spake unto them and said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." No other ever made such a declaration. No man could claim such a thing. The disciples had in great sorrow and disappointment seen their Master crucified and slain and thereby their hopes were blasted. Some faithful women were the last to give up, being the last at the tomb, and the first at the grave soon after the resurrection. They were rewarded by being the first to see and talk with Him. When they reported to the apostles that in Galilee He would meet them the hopes of the sorrowing little church revived.

No such commission was ever before given to men. Jesus emphasized this by telling them that He now had all authority in heaven and earth. Those of the church of Jesus Christ who would in any way assist in carrying out this commission have the consolation that all power is behind them. They are not representatives of an earthly power but a heavenly. They are not limited to the help of man, an earthly King or a man-made government, but they have back of them all the power of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has promised I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. I will be with you always even to the end of the age.

The once sorrowing crucified but now glorified Savior looks down upon the efforts of all even the weakest of his people to spread the good news of salvation to a suffering sin cursed world. They may meet many reverses and suffer many defeats but in the end they conquer. In spirit He is with them. All the power, all the authority in the created universe is at His disposal. All the angelic hosts of heaven are at His command. All the spiritual forces both good and evil are or will be subject to Him.

Jesus has conquered and He expects us to conquer as He did and by following His example. Paul says: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Heb. 2:5-11. Jesus has proven Himself to be worthy of all power in Heaven and earth. The news of Salvation for all men was given to the church to be carried to

All Nations

What a stupendous task. What a wonderful commission. The earthly church thought it was to be given in a very short time. Those disciples thought the gospel was to be disseminated in their lifetime. But it has now been nearly two thousand years and the task is not yet accomplished. We are permitted to help herald the news of the great redeemer. It is a task toward which none of us can do very much, but we can do a little. Each of us can contribute something toward its accomplishment.

Perhaps the Apostles could not at first help wondering if indeed the gospel was intended for all men. Must it be carried to the gentile nations? They perhaps wondered at the task. How could it be done? Surely they would need the help of the powers of heaven and earth. Man could not, man cannot do it. God must help. He must supply the power. This is what He did.

Jesus had commanded to tarry in Jerusalem until endued with power from on high. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." They received this power on the day of Pentecost and three thousand were added to them. This gave them courage and they began in earnest the great work. They accomplished their part of it. "With great power gave the apostles witness, and great grace was upon them all." "They went everywhere preaching the word." Surely God was with them. At the end

of the first century they had gathered to the church as variously estimated from four to six million souls. If the work had continued at this rate all nations would have heard the good news long before this.

But the church for a good many reasons has failed and is failing in the ages since the apostles' time. All the nations and much less "every creature" have not heard the word. Even in the so-called christian lands very many do not know that our loving heavenly Father would have all men to be saved. There are said to be one billion four hundred million human beings in our world. Each of these has the possibility of eternal life. Most of them have not heard the good news but are in spiritual darkness. May we be interested. May we breathe a prayer that laborers may be sent into the whitening harvests.

The church was commissioned to teach all nations. All believers were to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Then they were to be taught.

All Things

The church prospered and grew in the days of the apostles because it was a unit in believing that Jesus had all power and would supply them the needed power and lastly that it was expected that if men were to be saved they must be taught all things He had commanded them. They did not shun to declare "all the counsel of God." The power will not continue with those who do not take with them the whole truth. They might even gain numbers but they will not save souls. If we knowingly and purposely neglect to take all the truth Jesus will not be with us. Perhaps here is where the church has lost her power.

The church and her ministers must be equipped with the whole armor of God or they will be defeated. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit. "It is sharper than a two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Jesus conquered Satan by the sword of the Spirit. He pointed to what is "written." The church must not only go with the gospel but to be safe it must go with the whole gospel. "If any man shall add unto the things which are written in this book God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book. If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and from the things which are written in the book." We see then that it is dangerous to tamper with the word of God.

But many will be disappointed in the day of all accounts. "Many will say unto me in that day Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name cast out devils? Then will I profes unto

them, I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity." It is not those who say Lord, Lord, who shall enter into the kingdom of God but those who do the will of the Father in heaven. "Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city." These and many other scriptures plainly show that "obedience to God is the gateway to heaven." In going as Christ's ambassador we may not take the liberty to make the message or to modify it. We may not wilfully omit any part of it. All things. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. If you do this I will be with you always even to the end of the world.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Second Coming of Christ

J. H. Moore

One could hardly conceive of a more impressive object lesson than that given the apostles on the Mount of Olives, at the ascension of Jesus. We are told in Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 1:9-12, that he led his trusted few out as far as Bethany, on the eastern slope of the mount, and there, in broad daylight, was seen to ascend into heaven, a cloud receiving him out of their sight. Two celestial beings standing by said: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

One could wish no finer evidence in support of the doctrine of the return of the Master to the earth. For those who witnessed the scene, and heard the declaration of the two angels, it was a lesson never to be forgotten, and one that proved an encouragement to them to their dying day. They came from the mount feeling that, at his own appointed time, their Master would return to the earth, and wherever they went they preached this part of the Gospel, and exhorted the believers to "comfort one another with these words." (I Thess. 4:18).

The prophecy relating to the second coming of Christ may be traced back to the time of Enoch, before the flood, for in Jude 14 we read: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." Jesus also foretold his coming. Read these words from Matt. 25:31: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Time and again he confirms this statement, and especially so in John 14:3, where we read: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also."

But no lesson went home to the hearts of the apostles like the one given on the Mount of Olives. They not only believed that Jesus would return to the earth, but they wrote like men who believed that doctrine. Peter, who was present, saw the ascension, and heard what the two angels said, just a little later declared, in one of his addresses, referring to the presence of the Lord: "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things." (Acts 3:20-21). More than thirty years afterwards he wrote: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (II Peter 3:10).

Paul was not present when the angels spoke of the return of the Master, but he, too, became an earnest believer in the doctrine, and makes a number of references to it in his writings. We present but one quotation from him, and in this we have him speak fully: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:15-17). No language employed by the apostle could more thoroughly have committed him to the doctrine we are presenting in this chapter. There is no explaining it away. It is a straightforward statement, to the effect that Jesus will one of these days descend from heaven. As he was seen to go into heaven, so he will return in like manner. In fact, the prevailing opinion among the disciples was the early appearance of their Lord and Master. However, "of the day and the hour of his coming knoweth no man." But when he does appear, he will come on the clouds of heaven, accompanied by the angels, and every eye shall behold him.

OBITUARY

NECETTE SILKNITTER

Sister Sarah Necette Silknitter was born February 19, 1899 and departed this life, October 16, 1990 at the age of 91 years, 7 months and 27 days.

Her husband, Alvin Silknitter, preceded her in death, February 29, 1980.

She was a member of the Orion Dunkard Brethren Church.

She leaves to mourn her departure one daughter, Pauline Brainard of Hartville, Ohio; one son, Earl of Canton, Ohio; one

sister; four grandsons; nine great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Services were conducted from the Howard J. Hecker Funeral Home in Uniontown, Ohio, by Brother William Carpenter, assisted by Pastor Melvin D. Leidig and Brother Harley Flory. Interment was in the Greensburg Cemetery, Greensburg, Ohio.

NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The world is filled with news which is evil and sinful, but praise God there still is Good News. I would like to share some with you.

The Lord has brought many soul searching and inspiring messages through Bro. Bob Carpenter in our one week revival. We could feel the love and unity among the members as we worshipped from night to night. The sincerity we saw in some of our young brethren and sisters during these meetings made our hearts rejoice. The presence of our aged brothers and sisters, who have not been in the best of health, were an inspiration to us. We were happy to see brothers and sisters present whom we haven't seen for some time.

The Lord spoke to two dear sisters to come to Him and they answered that call. Sister Melanie Siegrist, daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Lucy Siegrist and Sister Heidi Keller, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Lorraine Keller are the two lambs that have been added to the fold. May we all pray for them and help them to remain true and faithful to Him, who died for us.

Our dear Elder Allen Eberly shared some more Good News with the congregation when he told us about one of the deacons going to see if we could still use our place of baptism. The deacon had a let down feeling when he saw a board fence was put around the place used for baptizing. He went to the home and inquired if we could still use this site for baptism. They told him they kept us in mind when they put the fence up by installing a gate for us to get through to the stream.

There were two cold, windy, rainy days before baptism but the day of baptism God blessed us with a beautiful, sunny and much warmer day. This day was also our Lovefeast with Bro. Bob Carpenter officiating. What a wonderful day it was, with two more added to the church to help commemorate the death and resurrection of our most wonderful Lord and Savior.

We cannot thank Him enough for all He has done for us. He is so Good!

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1990

December 2 - The Salvation of Our Lord and Savior - I Thess. 5:1-28.

1. How do the current events affect you?
2. Notice what our state of awareness should be. verse 6.

December 9 - The Coming of the Lord Jesus - II Thess. 1:1-12.

1. What is the Christian's hope in verse 10?
2. Notice the greatest punishment in verse 9 - banished from the presence of the Lord.

December 16 - "Let No Man Deceive You" - II Thess. 2:1-17.

1. List the "spiritual dangers" that will precede Christ's return.
2. How can we tell "the truth" from "the lie"?

December 23 - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST - Isaiah 61:1-11.

1. List the redeeming blessings of the Lord.
2. Isn't it great to be an ambassador for the coming KING?!

December 30 - Be Not Weary In Well Doing - II Thess. 3:1-18.

1. How can we increase our spiritual endurance?
2. We are a year closer to the Lord's return... are you ready?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1990

December 2 - True Treasures - Matt. 6:19-21, Luke 6:45, Luke 12:15-37.

1. What are the qualities of true riches?
2. What is the sad end of the pursuit of earthly riches? Luke 12:20-21.

December 9 - Fruit Bearing - John 15:1-8, Psalms 1:3, Gal. 5:22-26.

1. What fruit is the Lord looking for in our lives?
2. Is the "husbandman" satisfied with your fruit production?

December 16 - The Good SHEPHERD - John 10:1-16.

1. How does the Shepherd bless our lives? Psalms 23.
2. Are you following the Good Shepherd?

December 23 - BIRTH OF CHRIST - Luke 2:1-20.

1. What gifts has Christ given you?
2. What have you given Him?

December 30 - MEMORIES - I Cor. 15:1-11, Neh. 4:14, Ps. 63:3, Ecc. 12:1, II Thess. 2:15-17.

1. Do you have some memories of the past you'd like to change?
2. Will the seed of today's deeds yield the memories you want tomorrow?

Paul Stump
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIII

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NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I WILL PRAISE HIM

When I saw the cleansing fountain
Open wide for all my sin,
I obeyed the Spirit's wooing,
When He said, Wilt thou be clean?

Tho' the way seems straight and narrow,
All I claimed was swept away;
My ambitions, plans, and wishes,
At my feet in ashes lay.

Then God's fire upon the altar
Of my heart was set aflame;
I shall never cease to praise Him,
Glory, glory to His name.

Blessed be the name of Jesus,
I'm so glad He took me in;
He's forgiven my transgressions,
He has cleansed my heart from sin.

Glory, glory to the Father,
Glory, glory to the Son,
Glory, glory to the Spirit,
Glory to the Three in One.

- M. J. Harris

TWO MEN

During His Earthly ministry, Jesus touched the lives of many people. They were from all stations and situations of life. The response of each one was different. Some were attracted to Him; a few were willing to follow Him. Others were attracted to Him for awhile but were unwilling or unable to make a permanent commitment to Him. Others were attracted by His miracles and the "fishes and the loaves." Others followed hoping to gain a material reward. They thought He would establish a Kingdom and they wanted a place in it. Many, perhaps most, rejected Him. Some did not give a second thought to what He had to say. Others were violently opposed to Him and His teachings. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

His personality and teaching greatly affected those who did listen to Him. Sometimes there was a dramatic change; other times the change was more subtle and took longer to complete. Two men, who were quite different, met Jesus under differing circumstances. The effect was more sudden in the one, more subtle in the other. Yet, they both became His followers. These two men were Nicodemus and Zacchaeus.

There were so many contrasts between these two men that about the only thing they had in common was that each was a Jew and each had an opportunity to meet Jesus. After meeting Jesus each tried to do what was right.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a rabbi, a teacher, a leader of the Jews. He had everything. Yet there was a void that his position, fame and honor did not fill. He probably could not have identified what was wrong within, himself. When Jesus first began to preach,

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heal and do other miraculous deeds, he probably joined the other Pharisees in doubting, questioning and even ridiculing Jesus. But his self doubts began to bother him. When alone he began to wonder about who this Jesus was and His teaching. One night he secretly made his way to Jesus. He certainly didn't want any of his colleagues see him seek out Jesus. He came to Jesus willing to acknowledge Him as a teacher come from God, another rabbi. Jesus ignored his attempts at flattery. Instead He got to the heart of Nicodemus' problem. Although Nicodemus was a leader and a teacher, he was not right with God. He, like all men, needed to be born again. He needed to recognize his sinfulness and the separation it caused between him and God. He needed to receive the gift of eternal life offered through the Grace of God in the person of His Son.

It was not easy for Nicodemus to make this realization and let God change his life. His efforts in Jesus' behalf were weak, among his associates. They could easily defeat his feeble attempts to stand up for Jesus. Probably Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathaea were the only members of the Sanhedrin who voted against condemning Jesus to death. After Jesus' death, Nicodemus came forth, with Joseph, to beg Jesus' body and to prepare it for burial. Finally he had made his stand.

Zacchaeus was very unlike Nicodemus. He was a rich Publican, perhaps the most hated of all people. He had gained his riches by exacting unfair taxes from his fellow countrymen. He was considered to be a traitor to his people, for he had aligned himself with the hated Roman government by becoming one of their tax collectors. He was the chief collector of that region. He had grown rich because he had the power of the hated Romans behind him. As long as the government got the amount of taxes they wanted from that region they did not care how much more the tax collector got.

Like Nicodemus, he realized there was something wrong with his life. One day when he heard Jesus was coming to Jericho, he decided to see Him. Others had the same idea. Because Zacchaeus was short, he could not see Jesus. He was persistent. He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree and sat on a limb waiting to see Jesus. When Jesus came by the tree, He called Zacchaeus down, so He could go to his house.

Many were upset that Jesus not only acknowledged this Publican, but that He would even go and eat at his house. Jesus was more interested in his soul than his social position. This manifestation of Divine Love completely broke down the barriers of Zacchaeus' heart. His changed heart was more concerned with righteousness than possessions. He was willing to make retribution for his past sins.

Nicodemus and Zacchaeus were radically different. Yet each was touched by his encounter with Jesus. Jesus can affect men, whether they are "up and out" or "down and out". The Gospel, today, is not the private possession of any one racial, social, tribal, or linguistic group. It belongs to all and is needed by all.

Jesus, who met the needs of both Nicodemus and Zacchaeus, can meet your needs as well. What have you done with Jesus?

THE SECOND MILE

Jesus conveys to us in Matthew 5:41 a very rewarding example of how His followers are to deal with one another and all those with whom we come in contact. Jesus states, "AND WHOSOEVER SHALL COMPEL THEE TO GO A MILE, GO WITH HIM TWAIN." Jesus' teachings are contrary to the thinking of man in his natural state. God's Word tells us that God's ways are not man's ways.

The SECOND MILE is an innocent sounding phrase from Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Yet it packs enough power to change the course of the world. What a pity that many people pass by on the other side and ignore their duty concerning applying THE SECOND MILE principle to their daily lives. We should commit it to memory and certainly commit it to practice.

The background for this lesson is very important. The Roman Empire was great and powerful. They demanded of their subjects obeisance, obedience, tribute and imposed many other rules and orders. The Roman soldiers, or officers and government officials were very demanding. If the Jews were asked by them to carry their pack or run an errand or guide them for a mile, it was a MUST. Oftentimes this was a most humiliating and chafing experience. Moses wrote concerning the Jews, "That these men were a stiff-necked and proud people." This rule of a mile stipulated that only in an emergency would one be compelled to go more than a mile. Many Jewish boys who were compelled to serve the mile rule, were very precise in measuring a mile and refused to go one step farther.

Multitudes followed and listened to Jesus' many and diverse teachings. Possibly, this teaching had a greater effect on the people than any other. I believe that they marveled at His great truths. Jesus knew their hearts and their hardness and out of a clear sky He let drop like an explosive bomb, "WHOSOEVER COMPELS THEE TO GO A MILE, GO WITH HIM TWAIN (Two)."

I presume the audience began nudging one another and shaking their heads. I have reason to believe they were astonished at that statement. Is Jesus taking sides with the Romans? Does He mean that we must continue to go that mile? They were shocked.

As we look into this scripture, Jesus does approve of the mile rule but He extends it to two or even more miles. Jesus deliberately made this obnoxious Roman Rule a carrier for the great principle of life so neither they nor we would overlook or miss one of the fundamental rules for living a Christian life. If we fail in carrying it out, it spells tragedy for our life, our business, our church and our chances of Heaven.

What does "GOING THE SECOND MILE" mean? It simply means doing a little more than you are required or reasonably expected to do. The sermon on the Mount, preached by Jesus Christ, if practiced in our life is a means to living an abundant life. One cannot experience the abundant life without practicing "THE SECOND MILE." Going the second mile brings happiness to those who travel it. To do more for each other, for Christ, for the Church than is required is very rewarding. It actually becomes a joy.

We know what we are obligated to do in carrying out our claim of being a Christian. When we do more than required, we gain peace, pleasure and satisfaction from it. When Jesus said, "Go the second mile", the first mile under Roman law was compulsion. The second mile under Christ was voluntary. The first because one had to. The second because one wants to. On one occasion Jesus was asked, "How oft should I forgive my brother, until seven times?" Jesus' answer was, "Not until seven times but seventy times seven."

I could relate several instances of going the second mile. A tourist in an unfamiliar area ran out of gasoline. He did not know where he might be able to buy gas. An elderly man came by in an old pick-up and stopped. "Are you having trouble" he asked the tourist. "Yes, I am out of gas and a stranger in this area." The man in the pick-up asked the tourist to get in with him and he took him five miles to the first gas station. The truck driver asked the station operator for a can of gasoline and drove back to the stranded automobile. He helped the tourist get started, but would take no pay, except for the gasoline. He went the SECOND MILE.

A beggar stopped a man on the street. He asked the man to buy him a sandwich. There was a restaurant near by. The man invited the beggar to go along in. He did not buy the beggar a sandwich. He bought him a full meal. "HE WENT THE SECOND MILE."

If, in our employment, we only do just enough work to earn our pay, we have only gone the first mile. If we do more than is required, then we become profitable to our employer. That is "GOING THE SECOND MILE."

Going the second mile willingly, always leaves happiness in the hearts of those who travel it. To do more than is required in every walk of life is very rewarding.

A noted surgeon performed many very serious operations in a teaching hospital. Students were required to observe his work.

He worked in a glass enclosed room, while the students observed from without. Following one operation, after all the other observing students had returned to their rooms, one remained. He asked the surgeon why he always tied three knots at the end of an operation, when textbooks and our instructor says one knot is sufficient. Why three? The doctor said, "I'll tell you a secret. That third knot is my sleeping knot. When I retire at night, I review in my mind every operation performed during that day, from start to finish. I follow through to the closing of each incision. That third knot is my sleeping knot. I can relax knowing that I tied three knots, and not only one that by chance might open. I tied three, two more than required.

Extra favors we can do for someone to lighten their burdens, to help the needy, to offer cheer to the depressed, to buy a hungry individual some food to eat, to give a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple and to assist someone needing help, though we may not be definitely required to do so, becomes our second and third sleeping knots.

The second mile is often called THE LOVE MILE. In the same scripture that Jesus taught THE SECOND MILE rule, He also tells us, if someone smites you on the right cheek, turn to him the other, also. And if any many will sue you at the law, and take away thy coat, give him thy cloak, also.

When God created man, He called it "GOOD." But man sinned. God did not leave man bound in that sinful condition. He went the Second Mile by giving His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have Eternal life.

Christ not only taught THE SECOND MILE, He traveled that route. Are we traveling this road, on which He went before us?

Brother Paul R. Myers
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Selection of Christmas music for Christians...

I hear many Christians today express their concern about the unholy way Christmas is being celebrated, but I seldom see the same individuals concerned about the music they listen to during this holiday period. I really enjoy this time but certainly am concerned about how commercial it has become. Promotions begin in September because many retailers depend upon Christmas sales to keep their businesses afloat. Advertising begins early with the push to shop "now."

Along with this push is early advertising showing record albums and cassette tapes. They are said to have "captured the hearts of millions" and they might well advertise that they are the "greatest collection ever assembled." Then we begin to look at the titles and see little of the REAL spirit of the season represented in any way. Titles appear like, "Here Comes Santa Claus" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" or "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." We are lucky if there is anything included as beautiful as the "Hallelujah Chorus" or "Joy to the World... the Lord has Come." The very music that would represent Christmas and stir our hearts to worship and celebrate the birth of our Lord is strangely omitted. Obviously, the world has forgotten or does not want to recognize that Jesus is the reason for the season!

It is at this time that we look back to the incarnation of our Holy God as He entered into this world in the personage of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. God became flesh and dwelt with us. How wonderful. And, He did not come riding on a reindeer! The thought is as profane as seeing a picture of Santa kneeling and worshipping at the manger.

We as Christians need to be much more selective in our holiday music and make sure it represents the reality of the incarnation happening. This will be necessary if we are going to keep the world out of Christmas and allow it to be the celebration of Christ's birth. It is obvious that this whimsical music is a part of the "Merry Xmas" generation... the generation that is trying to go on its own without the Saviour. The message should be clear. Satan has grabbed ahold of this holiday and has made it a panache of commercialism, parties, sales and presents. It is chaotic and depressing to many in the world and visits the spirit of "Ebenezer Scrooge" on them.

If you approach the Christmas season in a holy and reverent manner and enjoy all of the spiritual aspects of it, including the right kind of music, it will be special and memorable and it will bring you peace in the midst of all the confusion of our day. I challenge you to celebrate with appropriate Christmas music this year.

Brother Len Wertz

ENDEAVORING

Ephesians 4:3, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The Brethren should be students of the Bible. We should study not only the principles, precepts, stories, parables, and history contained therein, but we should also study the words of the Bible. Knowing the deep meanings of the words of scripture can benefit

us spiritually, and though we receive all our spiritual understanding through the Holy Spirit, it is through language we are made to comprehend it.

Herein we would like to examine Ephesians 4:3. The word, "endeavoring" has a broad meaning. It comes from a Greek word meaning, "to be forward, to be diligent, to do diligence, or to give diligence, or to study." It implies action. Those who believe there is no action on our part regarding the Christian life should examine this passage. For example, II Peter 3:14 says, "... be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace,..." This "be diligent" is the same word, "endeavoring." This is something we should be bound and determined to do. Hebrews 4:11 says, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest..." This is also from the same Greek word, "to endeavor."

Our text goes further by telling us what we should endeavor to do. Verse 1 says we should walk worthy of our calling, and verse 3 says we should labor to keep the unity of the spirit. Both imply action. Not only is it important to walk worthy, but it is important to keep unity. Our love one to another is our witness to a lost and dying world, to which we shine as lights in the darkness. We cannot have unity in the body if we are sowing discord. That is why, day by day, we must work at it. We must consciously, determinedly work at it. It is easy to love our brethren if we truly love Jesus. Sometimes, however, our brethren are not loveable to us. This is when it takes real determination to keep in unity.

The people of this world see what the church is made of by how we react to things. If someone does us dirty, especially someone from the Brotherhood, people are quick to make comment. It is up to us to keep sweet and not add to the fight. We must do as Jesus did and answer not again. Sometimes it takes a lot of effort to maintain, but we are not alone. Those who love Jesus have the Holy Ghost to help them. It is not easy to be treated unfairly and keep silent. But God will help us when He knows we are really trying (endeavoring) to keep peace.

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THANK YOU, LORD, FOR A GOODLY HERITAGE

Psalms 16:6, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

Lord, as our nation pauses for a day of Thanksgiving, I want to personally thank You for a goodly heritage.

We thank You, Father, for allowing us to be born in a country where we enjoy freedom. Where the majority have more than they need of this world's goods. While your Holy Word leads us to believe that you are not pleased with the unscriptural flag waving, "guns, God and guts" type of Christianity very prevalent in our land, we believe that You are also saddened by the anti-American rhetoric that is popular in so many of our "peace churches." We believe You led our Brethren forefathers to oppose the Revolutionary War that was the actual beginning of our nation. Yet we believe You put your hand of blessing on the outcome and made something good out of something evil. We do not believe You see America as the "new Israel" but we believe You have blessed America because of your children, the true Church. But we also see a great danger in equating possessions with spirituality.

Lord, I want to thank You for allowing me to be born into a home where Christ was worshipped. Where going to church was a regular Sunday practice. Where I received solid Bible teaching. A home where I learned to share with my brothers and sisters. A home where there was very little luxury but where our stomachs were filled and clothing was put upon our backs. I thank You Lord for a father who taught me to be willing to work for a living. Who set a good example by holding a job in the same work place for my entire growing up years. For a mother who washed and cleaned the house without having even the modern convenience of running water. Oh, Lord, help us to be thankful for the easy life we have in comparison to that of our parents in their years of raising a family.

Thank You, Lord, for a rich spiritual heritage. I thank You, Father, for leading me to the Dunkard Brethren faith. We thank You for those who have gone on before: the brethren with their broad brimmed hats, beards and plain coats that many ridicule today and the sisters with their large coverings, bonnets and cape dresses. We thank You for giving us the Bible truths of trine immersion baptism, the washing of the saint's feet, the Lord's Supper and the Holy Communion of the bread and the cup. For the teaching of greeting one another with a holy kiss. For the blessing of the anointing service. We thank You for the teachings of nonconformity to the world, refraining from going to law, non-swearing, and anti-secretism and biblical nonresistance. We thank You that You have taught us to sing from the heart our praises to You without the need of musical instruments. We thank You for a church that still believes the Bible is the infallible Word of God and strives to live by its teachings.

We thank You for the love and fellowship among us and pray that You would cause it to strengthen and grow. May we look for strengths in one another and build up one another in our weak-

nesses. Help us to avoid self-righteousness and to be willing to live as a community of Faith.

Lord, while we are thankful for our heritage of a good country, a good family life and a good church affiliation, we are even more thankful for a spiritual heritage that goes back to a hill where an old rugged cross once stood. Where the Son of God shed His precious blood for the sins of the world. A heritage with the truth that they laid Him in a tomb but three days later He rose victorious over death and the grave, the fulfillment of prophecy and my salvation. The heritage of a Church that was born on the day of Pentecost. A Church which we believe includes all of the truly born again Saints in all the world.

Father, I truly thank You, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that You saw fit to draw me unto You through the Holy Spirit. That You brought me to a worship of the true Triune God. That the blood of Jesus Christ was applied to MY heart and life. That You led me to the watery grave of baptism as an outward show of an inward work. Lord, I thank You that though I strayed away from the Faith You gently called me to return. That You gave me a second chance after I had fallen from the Faith.

Yes, Lord, thank You for a goodly heritage. And thank You that this heritage we have in the Lord Jesus Christ is available to all who will truly repent and seek your face, following the teachings in your Holy Word.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving may well be the most Biblical of the holidays that we celebrate since it shows an attitude that is essential in the Christian's life. We celebrate it in November but certainly it should be the attitude of our daily living.

Do we celebrate this day just by eating pumpkin pie and thinking about the coming of the hectic Christmas season? Do we ever consider how the Pilgrims themselves might have celebrated?

History records that Thanksgiving celebrations among the colonists were very simple occasions. They began by giving thanks to God for a safe trip to America. In fact they would spend the entire day thanking God for helping them to survive in this New World. This was a pure and simple celebration. It best expresses the thanksgiving that we see in Psalms 136, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Why? Because His love endures forever.

The 136th Psalm would have been sung in the temple by those worshipping there. Will we celebrate with the same expressions that are exclaimed here? First, there was Thanksgiving for the wonder of God's creation. He alone did the great wonders of creating the heavens and the productive earth. Do you give God thanks for the earth and its provision?

The Psalmist gave thanks for salvation. This should never be taken for granted and we should thank God for it daily. God has delivered us from eternal punishment into eternal life through His precious Son. We were in spiritual bondage until God made us free and alive in Christ.

We find thanksgiving, here, for the land of "milk and honey." The children of Israel found wonderful peace and safety in the land given to them. They could worship freely and for this they were very thankful.

However, we must remember that Israel did not remain true to God and eventually they became corrupt so God gave them over to Assyria and Babylon. This might well be representative of the outcome of an unthankful and unholy people even in our day. God has blessed our country so greatly and yet we, like the Israelites, have become complacent and careless in our praise for the stewardship of these blessings. May we take time this Thanksgiving season to thank Him for our salvation and provision as well as for His unlimited and magnificent creation.

When Christ comes for us, may we be living in an attitude of Thankfulness.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1930

CAUSE AND CURE OF INFIDELITY

B. E. Kesler

Unbelief is infidelity, hence an infidel in an unbeliever. Believers are of two classes, one accepts the Bible as the word of God but lacks faith to prompt obedience. The other accepts the Bible and proves it by obedience. The former is dead because of the lack of vitality. The other is living and shows it by actively doing God's commands.

Infidels are made, not born. God created man upright, and very good, in his own image and likeness. Many things combined destroy this nature and quality. The "devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whose soul he may devour." He is an unbeliever,

whose creed is, "I don't believe." He is a hypocrite, and often seemingly religious. He is transformed into an angel of light, as also are his ministers. He is not an angel transformed into a devil but a devil transformed into an angel. To accomplish his ends he has joined church, and to do his best work he accepts pastorates as do his imps. Because of this we have infidelity in the pulpit and as a matter of course, infidelity in the pew.

A man who does not believe the Bible has no business in the pulpit, nor to pose as a Christian in the pew. The cure for this is to close the door of the church to such hypocrites. No infidel with his modernistic theories should be allowed in the pulpit to publish his unbelief and sacrilege. For this modernism is simply unbelief. One of this class said recently he "would rather believe he came from a monkey than from mud," which is another way of saying he would rather believe some modern infidel scientist than to believe the inspired word of God. Such men should be ashamed to pose as followers of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of the world.

Such men not only deny Moses, but they deny, also the Lord that bought them. The cure is to bar them from the pulpit, and to do this government and discipline must be restored. The church, (I speak of it in the broad sense) has laid down or discarded government and is practically powerless to enforce discipline in such cases and so these men defy the church and go on spreading their infidelity.

All this unbelief and infidelity tends to suggest the idea of nonessentials, that we can get along without the blood that cleanses from sin and without many of the teachings of Him who shed it for us, and truly so, for if we can get to heaven without this blood we can get there without His teaching, which means we can go to heaven without Christ and the Bible. That is, we can get to heaven, "if there be a heaven", or shun hell, "if there be a hell", for without the Bible there is no heaven and no hell, that anybody knows of, or ever heard about. So that without the Bible we are at sea without chart or compass so far as heaven, hell, salvation and hereafter are concerned.

All this unbelief and infidelity is in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, "Go unto this people and say, hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing, ye shall see, and not perceive; for the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." It is easy for such folks to believe they came from a monkey, tadpole, baboon or what not, and that there are nonessentials in the Bible, a delusion, that is leading many precious souls to perdition.

And Paul tells us the awful doom that awaits them, "and even as they do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them over to a reprobate mind," and "because they receive not the love of the truth, that they may be saved, God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all may be damned who believe not the truth." From this it is seen God lets folks believe: or disbelieve as they elect, but at the same time discloses the fearful consequences of unbelief and disobedience.

The remedy for this is faith to believe all the prophets and apostles of our Lord have written, and willing obedience to the precepts of our Lord who sealed them with his own blood and now interceding before his Father's throne for us.

It is easy to see how faith leads to obedience and obedience, to happiness, and also to see how unbelief leads to disobedience and disobedience to damnation. And so Paul tells us, "to them who by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life. But to them who are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness indignation and wrath tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil of the Jew and also of the Greek."

With these plain scriptures in mind, it is hard to see how infidelity can thrive among people who know them, but all is in fulfillment of where it says, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" by yielding to the allurements of satan and by being "taken captive by him at his will." from all of which it is seen the devil is the cause of infidelity, and faith in Jesus Christ and his word is the only cure.

HOW I NEED THE LORD

If the day seems long and the sun does not shine, Dear Lord, open my eyes so I can see and feel thy presence and thy strength to help me through this day. You are the only One I can go to for help, comfort and inner peace. I must go directly to the Lord. I know I can depend on Him.

There is nothing that His mighty hands can't do. We will find Him always ready to help His children. Never too busy, He always sends relief.

Dear Lord, give me strength for my stumbling feet as I battle the crowd of life's busy streets. Well, I know the Key that opens the heart comes only through my prayers. Some tell me it is so hard to pray. It isn't hard to ask anyone for a favor. It is much easier to speak to the dear Lord, from whom we receive all our blessings. He gives us strength when we are so weak we feel we can't make another step. He lightens our burdens. We know because he

cares. We as His children must set aside a certain part of each day to be still and meditate, for in Him we are secure. If we have been born again, we are never on our own.

In this world we must depend on Christ to be with us each day. One is afraid to go out on the streets. Every time I must go out on the street I ask Him to go with me, I need His hand to lead me, there is so much wickedness going on every day. Children are kidnapped and mothers never see them again. If I did not have my blessed Lord to help me, life, I am sure, would not be worth living.

Let us try to win more people to Christ so we can cut down some of the wickedness that goes on day and night in our own towns and cities. Let us never be too busy to help someone in need. We don't need to go far till we see those we can help. They need the Lord to guide them day by day.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Resurrection

J. H. Moore

The return of the Master, after an absence of hundreds of years, will mean the beginning of a new era in the history of the world, with one event following in the wake of another. The more striking of these events will be the resurrection of the righteous dead. Paul makes mention of this in I Thess. 4:16, saying: "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

The fact that the saints shall rise first shows that there is a first, as well as a second resurrection. We have a significant reference to this in I Cor. 15:23, where this reading is found: "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." Christ becomes, as stated, the firstfruits of the resurrection. In fact, he declares: "I am the resurrection" (John 11:25). He was crucified, buried and arose from the dead the third day, thus being recognized not only as the firstfruits of the resurrection, but also as the resurrection itself. The resurrection became possible only because Jesus broke the bars of death and came alive from the tomb, — therefore "the firstfruits of them that slept." (I Cor. 15:20).

Referring again to verse 23, as quoted, we notice that after the resurrection of Christ we have the resurrection of those "that are Christ's at his coming." As sure as we have the resurrection of

Christ, just that certain do we have the resurrection of those who have been his faithful followers. Not only so, but the resurrection of these takes place at the Master's coming. It is a case, in the resurrection, of every man in his own order." First Christ, then his followers, and last the unrighteous. This doctrine of the first and second resurrection is too clearly stated in Rev. 20:5-6 to be misunderstood. We have this reading: "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Here we have the "first resurrection" and the "second death" distinctly named, with a period of one thousand years between them, the resurrection of the righteous being at the beginning of the period, and the resurrection of the wicked at the end. The statement, "the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished," is further proof of the resurrection of the wicked, one thousand years after the resurrection of the saints. Since "the dead in Christ shall rise first," as Paul states, it, "and so shall... ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:17), no wonder that John, the author of Revelation, broke forth and said: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection." Well may the saints "comfort one another with these words."

NEWS ITEM

THANKS

I want to thank everyone across the Brotherhood who remembered me with cards and letters for my ninety-ninth birthday. May God bless each one.

Sister Dora Spurgeon



The acts of breathing which I performed yesterday will not keep me alive today; I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or animal life ceases. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE SWEETEST STORY EVER TOLD

Oh, sweet is the story of Jesus,
The sweetest that ever was told;
None other such love and compassion,
Such visions of glory unfold.

It tells of redemption from sinning,
The marvelous gift of God's love;
Who gave to the world His Beloved,
To woo us to heaven above.

A message of light and rejoicing,
In power it speedeth along;
Till hearts born anew out of darkness,
O'er-flow with salvation's glad song.

Then tell out the wonderful story,
The story that cannot grow old;
The story of love and redemption,
The sweetest that ever was told.

- Kate Ulmer

SOME CHRISTMAS IRONIES

Irony is a form of mockery. By using veiled words or inflections, an opposite meaning is given to what is said or done. What is treated seriously becomes light. What is said in praise is meant to be critical. There is much in the current, general celebration of Christmas that is ironic.

It is ironic that what is supposed to be a celebration concerning Jesus has become an event that nearly ignores Him. Although His name is connected with the day, He has almost been left out. Without the coming to Earth of Jesus there would have been no Christmas in the first place, but some have become offended and want any mention of Him to be excluded from the celebration of this time. This is especially true in the schools and other public places. To think of something comparable, Americans would have to deny that George Washington ever lived or served in the early days of this nation, but yet continue to take note of his birthday on February 22nd. If we are willing to take note of George Washington then we should be mindful of Jesus Christ.

Christmas has become associated with gift giving. It is ironic that billions of dollars will be spent on gifts exchanged among people, who in general will not give much thought to the Gift that God sent to us. These gifts will be given for various reasons. Some will be given out of love and helpfulness. Many will be given in exchange for gifts already received. Others will be given out of a sense of duty. Still others will be given as a business advertisement or publicity method. It is pleasant to give and receive gifts, especially when given in love. But too little thought is taken of the symbolism of those gifts. They are given supposedly as God has

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given His Son as the best gift that men could receive. God's love prompted that gift. Love should prompt the gifts men give to one another. Paul commended the Thessalonians because the first gift that they gave was themselves. They donated themselves and their possessions and their talents to the work that the Lord would have them do. We should give ourselves as they gave themselves. This would be more pleasing to God than many of the gifts we give either to one another or even to the needy. Sometimes the gift of money or things becomes a pale imitation of the gift that God really desires — the gift of ourselves, personally.

Christmas presents are very important to many people. People, especially the children, talk of what they want for Christmas. Probably there are many adults who are anticipating gifts just about as much as the children. They look forward with hope that they will receive that special gift. They do not hesitate to accept that gift or any other when it finally comes time to receive it. No matter how great the gift one person might give another, there is no comparison with the gift that God gave. The gift of eternal life is greater than any worldly gift, no matter how costly, rare or beautiful. Despite the obvious value of God's Gift, most refuse to accept it. People who have no qualms about accepting very costly and special temporal gifts, not only will not accept God's gift but they don't even want to hear about it.

A gift to be a gift must be accepted by the recipient. There is no gift until someone has accepted it from the donor. One of the ironies of Christmas is the willingness of people to accept all manner of gifts, great and small, but they will not accept the Gift for whom the holiday is named. Thus they cheat themselves of the Gift which is longer lasting and more valuable than any other.

Christmas may or may not be celebrated near the time of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. Whatever connection His birth has with the holiday, it is ironic that it is His birthday but it is all the other celebrants who receive the gifts. It is said to be His day but very little is done to truly honor Him. His name is attached to the celebration but it is others who have the good time. His birth had a purpose, which required Him to suffer tremendously. But His birthday has become a time of mirth and self-indulgence.

For too many the story of Jesus stops with the heart-warming events surrounding His birth. They do not understand the purpose of His birth nor know of the events at the other end of His sojourn on Earth. Also they do not realize that He is coming again, this time to reign, not suffer.

While the world's celebration of Christmas is touched with many ironies, that is no reason to keep you from worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth.

NOEL OR CHRISTMAS

In Christian America, where Christmas is highly commercialized, the birth of Jesus is still highly honored.

In Palestine the home country of Jesus, in the all Jewish Tel Aviv, a city of over 400,000, up until 1950, there was not one single Church. The few Christians, who resided there, if they wanted to worship were required to go to Jaffa, the nearest city having Christian Churches.

The true meaning of Christmas is for the benefit of a person's soul and spiritual life, not for his physical pleasure.

Christmas is one time we should not say, "Look what the world has come to." But we should say, "Look at what has come into the world."

Christ as a babe transformed a stable into a spiritual nursery. As a babe, He brought joy to the world. As a man, He was the greatest teacher that ever graced the earth. As a crucified and risen redeemer, He paid the full price for the redemption of each.

We sing many carols at Christmas time. The first carol was sung nearly 2000 years ago by a Heavenly Choir, an angelic Host, winging their way from Heaven to earth. Thus was announced the first and best gift given to man.

In the Christmas lesson, we have taxes and tidings. Caesar issued the decree for taxes. The Angels of Heaven brought good tidings of great joy.

The first Christmas, the Birth of Jesus was God's beginning again. Man fell from the first beginning. God started over, giving many and all who will, an opportunity to be redeemed through His only begotten son.

As there was no room in the Inn for His birth, there is not room in the hearts of many, today, for Christ to enter and cause them to experience the "New Birth."

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." He became the first true missionary, leaving His Father's throne in Heaven and came to this earth to save the lost. He was a pioneer missionary and He became a missionary martyr.

Christmas is a day we especially keep Holy. It is a season of good will and gift giving. If there is someone on your gift list, and you do not know what to give them, here is a list you might consider:

To an opponent - Tolerance
To an enemy - Forgiveness
To all men - Charity
To yourself - Respect

To a friend - Your heart
To a customer - Better service
To every child - A good example
To God and the Church - Your all.

An employee in a post office in England lost a son by death, very suddenly, through a severe illness. It so grieved the father, that he did not enjoy or appreciate any part of life. He could not eat, sleep nor keep his mind on his work. His wife and daughter took the loss seriously, but they accepted it as an act of God. Father could not be cheered. It was near Christmas. The mail was heavy. As he was sorting mail, he came on to a letter, poorly written in pencil, addressed to Santa Claus, North Pole. It was undeliverable so he opened it and the following is what he read:

Dear Santa Claus:

We are very sad at our house this year. I do not want you to bring ME anything. My little brother went to heaven.

All I want you to do when you come to our house, give Daddy something that would make him like he used to be and tell me stories again.

I heard Daddy tell Momma once that only Eternity could cure him. Would you please bring him some of that, and I will always be a good little girl.

Daddy's Daughter

If we honestly accept the greatest gift ever offered to all humanity, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) we will receive our portion of ETERNITY.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Yea, Christmas"

I have noticed in the past few years that we Christians dwell so much on the negative aspects of the commercialized Christmas holiday that we have difficulty in enjoying this beautiful season of the celebration of the birth of our Saviour.

Enjoy! Enjoy the FACT of the promised King. God promised through Micah and the other prophets that King Jesus would be born. He was! The prediction was true and a Babe was born in Bethlehem and brought salvation to all who would accept Him.

Enjoy! In a little town of Bethlehem... a very obscure village in the remote suburb area of Jerusalem... Jesus was born. Bethlehem was nothing until the Christ child was laid in the manger there. There were no tourists and it was just an ordinary "off the map" place. This is a lesson in itself as all places and all people are

unimportant except as they fit into the perfect plan and purpose of God. Even as the song says, "you're nobody until somebody loves you,..." and we are somebody only in that God loves us. The prophet said of Bethlehem, "Thou art not the least." So that is true of you. You are the most... a child of God, joint heir with Jesus, an ambassador of the King of Kings.

Enjoy! You do not need to become anxious over the happenings in our time relative to war in the Middle East or the other headline problems because God is in control of your eternal destiny. Whatever happens in Israel or other places in the Middle East need not take away your "peace which passes understanding." Peace in hearts is here. Reconciliation between man and God is a reality. Redemption is extended to the ends of the earth. Praise God!

Enjoy! Look at the interesting lights that are placed on houses and buildings this season, ostentatious as they are, and think of the Christ Child, "the light of the world." Of course, if all the lights went out at Christmas you can still sing and laugh and love because you have "seen a great light." God has given us the ultimate light... the Light of the world is Jesus.

Enjoy! Enjoy a simple and heart-centered gift exchange as your expression of love. As a Christian, these should remind us of the greatest proof of God's mercy and love in the gift of His Son. Our spirits are glad and our hopes run high during this season because we know the person whose birthday we celebrate and He is our personal Saviour. Make this a time of renewal of your commitment... trust and obey. Reaffirm your faith and give yourself as a gift in His service.

Enjoy! Don't become so frustrated in the tinsel and gift-wrap that you forget the sacrifices that Jesus made in coming to earth from the perfection of heaven and becoming "mere" man. Don't forget to read the ultimate Christmas card... which is ultimately a ransom note, the Bible. What are the greetings imprinted there? "Whosoever believeth in Him should never perish, but have everlasting life." Christ was born to die that we might be born to live. This Christmas, grab the meaning of this love.

Enjoy! True celebration of Christ's birth is an expression of worship at its best. Bow your knee and praise the King of Kings. He is worthy of your worship because of His divinity, not because of His humanity. Yes, He materialized in human form but this was done that he might humble Himself to later die on the cross... for YOU.

In God's perfect plan, it was necessary for Jesus to be born on earth and visit this planet that our communication with God might be restored. The clearest message God ever delivered to Man was Jesus, clothed in flesh.

Refresh your spirits and sing and pray and commune with God this Christmas. Look at this holiday from God's perspective and ENJOY!

Brother Len Wertz

THY LIGHT IS COME

Isaiah 60:1, "ARISE, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee."

Let us arise and tell the world. Thy light is come! May our life shine in the darkness of this world with the good news, thy light is come! Praise the Lord HIS glory is risen upon us.

In John 1:9 we read, "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." What was the true light? John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." If you read the entire first chapter of John, it makes it very clear that "the Word" refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. As hymn writer P. P. Bliss expressed it in the first verse of his song, "The Light of the World is Jesus."

"The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;
The Light of the world is Jesus;
Like sunshine at noon-day His glory shone in,
The Light of the world is Jesus."

In John 8:12 we read, "Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Just previous to this we have the well known account of the woman who was taken in adultery. While the scribes and Pharisees who brought the woman to Jesus was condemning, the Lord Jesus showed concern and compassion. Should that be our attitude towards those who feel different than we do about observing Christmas and following the (what we consider to be) pagan customs and traditions connected with this day? It is true that Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." We have deep respect for those who follow our Brethren tradition and refuse to recognize Christmas as an acceptable "special day." However, we have to be very careful that we do not fall into the same condemnation as the scribes and Pharisees did in Matthew 23:24, "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." Are there "camels" in our own life that should be taken care of before we are too judgemental? The second verse of P. P. Bliss' hymn reads;

"No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,
The Light of the world is Jesus;
We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide,
The Light of the world is Jesus."

I Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who commandeth the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." First of all, lest anyone misuse the verse we quoted from John 1:9 to "prove" that everyone has a "spark of this light" within them and that this light only has to be fanned to its fullness, we quote verse 5 of this chapter. "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." We disagree with the modern versions that translate this verse, "and the darkness has not overcome it," although we acknowledge that this is a truth and that "overcome" is a possible translation of the Greek word, "katalambano" but a confusing one and not the best one according to Strong's Greek dictionary. (In fact Strong's does not list the word "overcome" but "(over) take", which could mean "overcome.") We cannot take the space to quote the verses we would need to go into the detail of the thought we wish to make, although we probably should, but we assure you they can be found. The blood of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world, is sufficient for all humankind. At birth this blood avails for the sin of every baby that ever is conceived. So in this sense the true Light lights every man (or woman) that comes into the world. But the fact that they do not comprehend this causes not "a spark of light that must be fanned," but darkness to be part of our human nature. Only a born again experience can change this darkness into light. The third verse of P. P. Bliss' hymn reads:

"Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes,
The Light of the world is Jesus;
Go wash at his bidding, and light will arise,
The Light of the world is Jesus."

There is another type of darkness that the Light of the world can help us with. This is the darkness we all experience at one time or another in time of sickness, distress or sorrow. Is it not wonderful that God can dispel the darkest time of our life and bring His glorious light? Many times He brings divine healing, but He always brings divine strength to meet the situation. Praise His Holy Name!

In Revelation 22:5 we read, "And there shall be no light there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." If a Dunkard can ever shout, this is "shouting ground!" No more darkness, no more sorrow, no more pain. Only eternal bliss with Jesus Christ. Verse four of P. P. Bliss' hymn reads:

"No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told,
The Light of the world is Jesus;
The Lamb is the light in the city of gold,
The Light of the world is Jesus."

Will you not respond to the chorus of this grand old hymn?

"Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;

Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me,

Once I was blind, but now I can see:

The Light of the world is Jesus."

AMEN!

Brother James M. Hite

816 E. Birch St.

Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1930

ENLIGHTENMENT

D. W. Hostetler

In Ephesians 1:18 we have these words: "The eyes of our understanding being enlightened." Is our present standard of enlightenment and understanding of the Scriptures sufficient? Or do we need more teaching and a better system of "study"? We do need to do some really profound thinking.

What shall we understand by "the eyes of our understanding"? David one time said, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of the law." The eye suggests the thought or idea of vision. The idea of the Psalmist here is that our vision may be enlarged; that is, our vision of truth or doctrine may be enlarged. It is the wonderful things in God's law which we need to be thinking about. We need not ponder over the mysteries or mysterious things, but we must think about the things that are practical in everyday life.

The word "vision" means to behold or to comprehend. The truth as it is in Christ and a vision of God's truth are necessary to being truly enlightened in the divine revelation of God and to the understanding of God's will concerning us.

Let me raise a serious question here. Does God ever withhold his truth from people? In Matthew 11, we read that Christ thanked the Father that he had "kept these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes." To reveal these great truths to folks in the common walks in life and to use them to make known his great doctrines to the world is just what God did. You may say that was before Christ's time. Note what Paul says about "them that have not the love of the truth that they might be saved." Because they have not his love, "God will send them strong delusion that they might believe a lie."

"And believing a lie they all might be damned, because they believe not the truth, but their pleasure is in unrighteousness."

So there is the possibility of people not having the love of the truth. It follows that they will receive a delusion that they might believe a lie. Because of these conditions, it is all the more important that we have a better understanding of the Scriptures that we may be able to make a better application of Scriptures. I conclude that we need a better system of culture to lead us up to a better understanding of Scripture. I mean Christian culture — cultivation of the mind, which embraces the idea of enriching the mind with truth. This study will lead to a finer or deeper system of living, a deeper consecration. I listened to a brother preach a splendid sermon last Sunday on the subject of Determination. One among the many good things he said was that we have been living too shallow lives and haven't got into Christian living as profoundly as we should. This is due to the fact that our thinking has not been as profound as it should be.

In this Christian culture or cultivation there may be some things that need to be rooted out, things that are a hindrance to our Christian development.

We may have some set ideas and our minds may be closed against further enlightenment. We may be a bit too narrow. This state of mind leads to selfishness in the extreme.

Let us have a text direct to the point. (II Timothy 2:15). "Study to shew thyself approved unto God." This term "study" embraces several things.

1. Reading to understand God's Word. This reading is obviously necessary to understanding.

2. Meditation on or in the things we have read or are reading. This meditation leads to a comprehension of the finer things of God's Word. David said, "I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways, and will delight myself in thy statutes."

And here is the most important of all: "I will not forget thy word." Now when we have a system of Christian culture that has God's divine approval upon it, we are reaching the place where we need to be. It is then that we will be approved of God.

Now the motive that should prompt us to a better system of Christian culture is to have a better understanding of the Word of God. Thus we will be able to make a better application of scripture, according to truth.

HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST ME?

How many of us, when honestly thinking about it have not found ourselves doubting our faith? We wonder if what we experienced

with our God was really "genuine." I can think of times in my life, as I am certain most sincere believers can, that the pillars of my faith were collapsing. The foundation upon which I had built my spiritual house was trembling with doubt and swaying in uncertainty. The limb of faith which I had inched out on after I had experienced the cleansing renewal of Jesus' blood, was no longer traversed with the same confidence that at first I felt. Instead, each new tremor brings with it new doubts, new questions and more reasons to get back to the relative safety of non-commitment.

We are not so alone in our doubts and fears as what we may lead ourselves to believe. Let's turn to the Bible and apply what we find there to our lives today. Our text for consideration is Matt. 11:1-11.

Here we find, (verses 2), John the Baptist in prison. From there he sends two of his disciples to Jesus to ask Him a question. "Are you the ONE? Were you really the man I was to prepare a way for? You know Jesus, you really have me wondering, because I don't think the Messiah, the REAL ONE would be letting me rot in this dump! Certainly if you are GOD incarnate, you could just walk up to the king, talk him out of his throne and set up your kingdom here on the human scene. You could just swing the doors to this little jailhouse open and together we could teach these Pharisees a thing or two. I mean Jesus, come on, if you are not the one I was to prepare for, I have to make some apologies and get out of here to get ready again for the true one. If you are the one, then I want you to know that according to "my" plan you are way behind schedule and it's time to get down to some serious takeover schemes."

Jewry at this particular point in history was looking for one of three people, the Christ/Messiah, Elias, or "that prophet." (John 1:20-21) John simply wanted to know which one if any one of these Jesus was.

I like Jesus' response in verse five. "Tell John to relax. I'm the One, here's how he can know." Jesus goes on to list some of the things that He is doing to prove that He is the true expected Messiah. "The blind see, lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead live, and the gospel is preached to the poor!" Quite a list of credentials.

The deaf hearing, lame walking and blind seeing were alot. But not nearly so good as the others. Precious few men can raise the dead, and John probably couldn't remember the name of the last person who'd been cleansed from leprosy, but this thing of preaching to the poor was unheard of! Aside from himself, John knew of no one who was interested in preaching to the poor. He'd seen enough "spiritual serpents" filling their pockets from the coffers of the rich to know that no ordinary man would preach to poor folk. It just didn't happen!

Armed with this new testimony the disciples of John returned and told him what Jesus has commanded them. Jesus turned back to the ever present crowd and began to defend John's character, lest any of those present began to criticize him.

Jesus' words speak volumes to us today. Verse 11a. "Among them that are born of women, there has not been one born greater than my man John. That means that on a scale of Abraham to John; John is at the top! Under him fall men like David, Issac, Moses, Noah, even Father Abraham was not as great as John the Baptist! Don't scoff at him for doubting me, because of all the people who have trusted me to date, he is the greatest."

John had experienced the kind of faith building experience that every man seeks. There was a point in John's life that he gave testimony to the FACT that this man IS the One for whom I am preparing the way. John 1:29-34. John had actually witnessed the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove, and as it "abode" upon Him, there was no longer any doubt in his mind as to this being the Son of God. How could he have forgotten that?

However, verse 11b, "He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than this great man!" That's speaking about you and me!

We, the least in the kingdom of Heaven are greater than John, yet we cry out from our self made prisons of fear and doubt, "Lord, is that you working in my life? I certainly believed when I felt your Spirit indwell me, when I accepted you as my Saviour and Lord that you were God, but would the true God take my baby away? I thought I felt my sins being forgiven; and the refreshing freedom that washed through my sin blighted soul is something I could never forget; but God; what about the rift that is now between my wife and I? You tell me. Am I really doing the right thing? Or should I look for another Saviour?"

We question God just as quickly as John did, even though we ourselves like John, have had the kind of solid rock experiences with the "slain lamb" that lives can be based upon. Let us take comfort in the "genuine" experiences that we have had at the foot of the cross as converts, as well as at the water's edge as believers and take up for ourselves, (verse 6) the blessing that comes from not being offended in Christ.

Remember most of the time, when we do doubt God, that those doubts stem from God not fulfilling our will and from our expectations of God not being those that God would will us to have. Constantly being aware of the fact that even as Jesus' idea of setting up a kingdom contained a few "curves" that John didn't expect; so might God's "kingdom will" for our everyday lives contain a few "curves" that we don't expect!

Jesus was not wrong in John's day, nor is He wrong in our day, we must accept and realize that "My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are MY ways your ways, for even as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are MY ways higher than your ways, and MY thoughts higher than your thoughts, saith the Lord." Isaiah 55:8-9.

Brother Galen Scott Shelly
#485 California Road
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THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Christ's Personal Reign

J. H. Moore

The coming of Jesus, on the clouds of heaven, and accompanied by the holy angels, means the ushering in of the millennium or the one thousand years' reign of Christ upon the earth. During this period he will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. In a brief chapter we cannot even name all that may possibly take place during this period, as prophesied by different writers. A reference to a few points will be sufficient to arouse interest and to comfort those who look forward to the time when the people of God can live in a world where righteousness shall prevail as the waters cover the great deep.

John in Rev. 20:1-3, telling about the beginning of this period, says: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled." Next comes the resurrection of the righteous, as stated in the previous chapter of this work, and then follows the Master's personal reign. Notice what is said in verses four and five of the chapter in Revelation cited, about the one-thousand-year period: "And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Then it is said that "the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." We also notice that Satan is to be bound a thousand years. These citations show that there is to be a period of ten full centuries when Satan is to have no dominion in the world. He is to be bound, and will therefore not be permitted to "deceive the nations" until the close of the period.

With Satan bound and the righteous of all previous ages being with Christ during his marvelous reign, we can look for the most

delightful period ever known in the history of the world. Wars will cease from one end of the earth to the other. All the saloons and the sinful dens of this world will disappear. All the instruments of warfare, the world over, will be converted into articles of utility; every fort will be dismantled, and all the warships of every nation will be remodeled for the use of a righteous people. We may well conclude that the world will then be at its best. Strife between nations, as well as contentions between man and man must cease. The controversy between capital and labor will cease, and the rule of right will be the rule for all nations, tribes and people. Who would not want to live in the world during this blessed period? Again, we quote the comforting words of the Revelator: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."

It is painful to think that this happy period, — the millennium, — must come to an end. We read that at the end of the thousand years Satan "must be loosed a little season." Then he will go out "to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth," possibly Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, including the isles of the seas. Now follows the greatest strife ever known in the world's history. The Satanic power, however, will be broken up and the kingdom of Satan completely destroyed (Rev. 20:8-9, 11-12). After this comes the final judgment.

OBITUARY

JASON SCHLATTER

Jason Schlatter, son of James E. and Connie (Carpenter) Schlatter, was born at Wauseon, Ohio on April 1, 1975 and departed this life October 17, 1990. He died at St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo, where he had been taken by Life Flight after an automobile accident at the age of 15 years, 6 months and 16 days.

Surviving besides his parents are one sister, Heidi and one brother, Bobby both at home; Maternal grandparents, Bro. and Sis. John Carpenter of West Unity, Ohio; Paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schlatter of Delta, Ohio; and many, many relatives and friends. Jason was a happy loving boy who loved everyone and all who knew him loved him.

Funeral services were held at Eleven A.M., October 20, 1990 in the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder H. Edward Johnson officiating, assisted by Pastor Ronald Johnson and Bro. Fred Johnson. Burial was in the Zion Cemetery, Delta, Ohio.

We wish to thank all who remembered us in our time of sorrow at the death of Jason Schlatter. For your cards, flowers, letters and prayers. May God richly bless you all is our prayer.

The family of Jason Schlatter

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

It was a time of revival during our Meetings the first two weeks of August. We were thankful for the inspiring messages by Bro. Len Wertz. As he and his family had to meet other obligations, Bro. David Aungst brought the last sermon. There was one who made a decision for Christ and was baptized and one who desired to return to fellowship in our congregation. There also was one who accepted Christ and was baptized just before the Revival Meetings started.

Our Lovefeast was held the first Sunday of November with sermons of unique continuity. Ministers present were: James Kegerreis, Emmert Shelly, Rudy Shaffer, Jason Reed and Paul Stump who officiated in the evening.

At our recent Council Meeting, Bro. Ray Stuber was installed into the ministry. We pray God's blessings upon him.

We welcome Bro. and Sis. Marlin Marks and family who have moved into our Congregation. We are touched with many emotions as Bro. and Sis. Ronald Marks and family are planning to move to Hart, Michigan. May God's guidance and blessings be with them.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address for Elder Allen B. Eberly is 239 Kurtz Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522. The telephone number is unchanged.



One complaining of the burden of life is represented as receiving instruction from an angel in a dream. She was taken to a place where lay myriads of crosses, and told that she might exchange her own for any she chose. She laid aside her own, and took up a jewelled cross, but soon began to totter under its great weight; and was glad to lay it down, and take up another of chased gold. This was even heavier than the other. She next chose a cross of flowers; but its thorns pierced her flesh, and became unbearable. She said, "Why need I have any cross?" The angel answered, "No cross, no crown." She soon discovered a plain cross, with the word "Love" engraved upon it in letters of gold, took it up joyfully, saying, "I can wear this." She found that she had chosen her own old cross again.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1991

January 6 - Faith, Patience, Wisdom - James 1:1-11.

1. How can we be joyful even in trials? verse 3.
2. What is a double minded man?

January 13 - Enduring Temptation - James 1:12-20.

1. What reward is promised to those who endure trials?
2. What great formula is found in verse 19 and 20?

January 20 - A Doer of the Word - James 1:21-27.

1. Notice in verse 21 what is to be laid aside and what is to be received.
2. Define "pure religion" as given in verse 27.

January 27 - Respect of Persons - James 2:1-9.

1. Who is on your list of "favorite people"?
2. What is the "royal law" in verse 8?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1991

January 6 - Salvation - Ps. 27:1, Ps. 37:34-40, John 3:14-17, Acts 4:10-12.

1. What do we need saved from?
2. Do you know and trust God's plan of salvation well enough to share with others?

January 13 - Necessities - Matt. 5:19-20, Matt. 18:1-4, Luke 13:1-9, John 4:22-24, John 6:47-58.

1. Whose necessities are most important to you — your friends or God's.
2. List some scriptural necessities.

January 20 - Truth - Pro. 12:13-28, Pro. 23:23, Eph. 4:20-25.

1. What is truth? John 17:17.
2. Why is the truth so important? John 8:32.

January 27 - Contentment - Pro. 15:14-19, Luke 3:7-14, Phil. 4:6-19.

1. What is the root of discontentment?
2. What is the key to contentment? Phil. 4:13, 19.